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COUNTY BOROUGH

HEALTH REPORT

1951

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HEALTH REPORT

1951

THOMAS ROSS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

From May, 1951 to May, 1952.

CHAIRMAN :

Councillor H. S. Gwinnutt.

VICE-CHAIRMAN :

Councillor A. W. Percox (To 5. 6. 51).

Councillor D. M. Middleton (From 9. 7. 51).

Alderman H. Hucker, J.P.
Alderman M. J. Kavanagh
Alderman B. I. Power
Councillor E. A. Brockhurst, J.P.
Councillor R. Davies
Councillor T. G. Williams (From 25.6.51 to 7.1.52).
Councillor T. S. Smith
Councillor L. Summers
Councillor A. M. M. Taylor
Councillor E. M. Flint
Councillor L. Harrington (From 14.1.52).

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN :

Alderman W. R. Wheway, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN :

Councillor T. P. Riley, J.P.

Alderman F. W. Evans, J.P.
Alderman A. McShane
Councillor E. A. Brockhurst, J.P.
Councillor A. W. Cotterell, M.B.E. J.P.
Councillor E. M. Flint
Councillor F. W. Harbidge
Councillor L. Harrington
Councillor F. F. Harrison
Councillor V. G. Parkes
Councillor L. Summers
Councillor H. Smith
Councillor A. M. M. Taylor
Mrs. W. H. Keay, B.A.
Miss H. M. Neville
Rev. Canon Jenkins
Rev. W. Sheeran
Rev. W. Eric Hodges
Mr. W. A. Burn
Mr. H. Busill Jones, J.P.
Mr. G. Harvey

STAFF

Medical Officer of health and School Medical Officer	Thomas Ross, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of .... Health	J. Maclachlan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Senior Medical Officer of Health for Maternity and Child .... Welfare	I.M. Brown, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.M.S.A., D.R.C.O.G., D.C.H.
Assistant Medical Officer of .... Health (School Medical)	A. Laurie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer of .... Health	A. Rowles, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Senior School Dentist	R.E. Morgan, L.D.S.
Assistant School Dentist	Mrs. I. M. Millar, L.D.S.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	C. A. Stansbury.
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector	J. Green.
Staff	10 Sanitary Inspectors. 2 Pupil Sanitary Inspectors. 8 Clerks.
Public Analyst	F. G. D. Chalmers, M.A., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.
Superintendent Health Visitor	Miss G. Johnson.
Staff	10 Health Visitors, 2 Temporary Health Visitors. 1 Pupil Health Visitor. 4 School Nurses.
Supervisor of Midwives	Mrs. M.E. Smith.
Staff	16 Municipal Midwives.
Administrative Assistant	P. Shoesmith.
Staff	7 Clerks. 3 Sales Clerks - Part-time
Duly Authorised Officer .... (Mental Health Service)	J. Wiggin. 1 part-time Deputy.
Senior Mental Welfare Officer	Miss F. Grant. 1 Assistant.
Supervisor Occupation Centre	Miss E. Ratford. 1 Assistant.
Matrons - Day Nurseries	Mrs. M. Williams. Miss L. D. Smith.
Ambulance Supervisor	L. J. Parry.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the County Borough of Walsall

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Borough during the year 1951.

The satisfactory position regarding staff which obtained at the end of last year was maintained throughout this year. This greatly eased the work of the department and has enabled us to overtake a considerable accumulation of work in certain spheres.

Health of the Borough

The various tables which follow set out in considerable detail the various vital statistics and call for little comment.

Although less satisfactory than last year, the infantile mortality rate still indicates a more favourable trend. The death rate also shows an upward movement for the present year, mainly due to an increase in respiratory diseases other than tuberculosis, and a continued rise in the number of deaths from cancer. On the other hand the deaths from tuberculosis again show a decrease despite an increase in the number of cases notified, the improvement being of the order of 20% in the case of pulmonary tuberculosis and 50% in non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The shortage of housing still continues to produce its adverse effects, and there seems little prospect of a substantial improvement of this position in the near future.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for the support and encouragement which they have given me during the year, and also the staff for their loyal and enthusiastic service.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

THOMAS ROSS,

July 1952. Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

1. General Statistics

Area in Acres	8,777
Population ....(At Census 1951)	114,514
Number of Inhabited Houses (At Census 1931)	23,311
Number of Families .... ,, ,, ...	24,953
Population 1951 (estimated)	113,800
Rateable Value	£604,676
Sum represented by a penny Rate	£2,370
Population per Acre	13.0

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

Number of Live Births Registered	2,017
(Legitimate : M., 988 F., 951 Total 1,939	
(Illegitimate : M., 36 F., 42 Total 78	
Number of Still Births Registered	49
(Legitimate : M., 26 F., 20 Total 46	
(Illegitimate : M., 2 F., 1 Total 3	
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Live Births)	17.72
Standardised Birth Rate	17.72
Number of Deaths (M. 805, F. 675)	1480
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	13.00
Standardised Death Rate	14.56
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth	
From Puerperal Sepsis	1
From other Puerperal Causes	—
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 (live and still) Births	0.48
Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	75
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births	37.18
Infant Mortality (legitimate infants) per 1,000 births	35.59
Do. (illegitimate infants) do.	76.92
Death Rate per 1,000 Population, from—	
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0.54
All forms of Tuberculosis	0.58
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)	1.71
Cancer	1.70
Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases (Smallpox, Enteric Fever, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup)	0.03
Death Rate from Diarrhœa and Enteritis of Children under 2 years of age, per 1,000 births	2.97
Deaths from Diarrhœa under 2 years	6
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1

Coroner's Inquests

219 inquests were held in the Borough during the year (144 males and 75 females).

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS ordered by Coroner		204
SUMMARY OF INQUESTS	M.	F.
Death by Murder	—	—
,, Suicide	11	11
,, Manslaughter and Infanticide	—	—
,, Self-induced Abortion	—	—
,, Neglect	—	—
,, Want of attention at Birth	—	—
,, Want, Exposure, etc.	—	—
Accident or Misadventure	39	23
Death from Natural Causes	92	39
Stillborn	—	—
Open Verdicts	—	2
Inquests adjourned	2	—
	144	75
Inquests on children suffocated whilst in bed (accidental)	—	—
Inquests on bodies of newly born children	3	—

Vital Statistics

The Birth Rate shows a decrease, being 17.72 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 17.99 for 1950, the figures for England and Wales being 15.50 and 15.80 respectively, and for the Great Towns 17.30 and 17.60.

The Illegitimate Birth Rate shows a decrease being 0.69 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 0.91 for 1950. There were 78 illegitimate births in 1951 and 104 in 1950. There was an increase in the Death Rate, this being 13.00 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 10.92 for 1950, the figures for England and Wales being 12.50 and 11.60, and for the Great Towns 13.40 and 12.30 respectively. The Infant Mortality Rate shows an increase, being 37.18 per 1,000 births against 28.64 in 1950. The rate for England and Wales was 29.60 and 29.80, and for the Great Towns 33.90 and 33.80 respectively. The illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate has increased to 76.92 per 1,000 illegitimate births from 9.61 in 1950. There was 1 Maternal Death, giving a Maternal Death Rate of 0.48 per 1,000 live and still births, against 0.47 in 1950. The respective rates for England and Wales were 0.79 and 0.86.

The Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis has decreased to 0.54 per 1,000 of the population, from 0.65 in 1950. From other Respiratory Diseases the Death Rate has slightly increased, being 1.71 against 1.44 in 1950.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN WALSALL COUNTY BOROUGH 1951

As furnished by the Registrar-General

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0–	1–	5–	15–	25–	45–	65–	75–
ALL CAUSES	M.	805	45	15	5	8	40	229	256	207
	F.	675	30	8	9	9	40	138	177	264
1. Tuberculosis—Respiratory	M.	42	—	—	—	—	15	18	9	—
	F.	20	—	—	—	3	11	2	3	1
2. Tuberculosis—Other	M.	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	M.	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
4. Diphtheria	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	M.	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	M.	14	—	—	—	—	—	7	7	—
	F.	9	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	4
11. ,, ,, Lung, Bronchus	M.	25	—	—	—	—	1	15	8	1
	F.	6	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1
12. ,, ,, Breast	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	19	—	—	—	—	2	9	4	4
13. ,, ,, Uterus	F.	10	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	5
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M.	69	—	1	—	1	1	19	25	22
	F.	41	—	—	1	1	4	16	9	10
15. Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	M.	4	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—
	F.	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—

16. Diabetes	M.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	F.	6	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M.	61	—	—	—	—	—	24	17	20
	F.	66	—	—	—	1	1	11	26	27
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	M.	65	—	—	—	—	—	24	27	14
	F.	34	—	—	—	—	—	7	18	9
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	M.	28	—	—	—	—	1	4	12	11
	F.	34	—	—	—	—	—	7	11	16
20. Other Heart Disease	M.	113	—	1	—	1	3	17	42	49
	F.	149	—	—	2	1	2	19	36	89
21. Other Circulatory Disease	M.	20	—	—	—	—	1	5	7	7
	F.	24	—	—	—	—	2	2	6	14
22. Influenza	M.	59	1	3	—	—	3	22	17	13
	F.	63	2	1	1	—	5	17	15	22
23. Pneumonia	M.	38	5	—	—	—	2	9	9	13
	F.	29	3	2	1	1	2	4	7	9
24. Bronchitis	M.	85	—	—	—	—	—	27	43	15
	F.	32	—	—	—	—	1	3	12	16
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M.	9	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	3
	F.	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M.	12	—	—	—	—	1	7	2	2
	F.	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M.	9	4	—	—	—	1	1	1	2
	F.	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	M.	18	1	2	—	1	2	4	5	3
	F.	6	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	M.	15	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	12
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	M.	11	6	2	1	—	—	1	1	—
	F.	8	5	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	M.	62	27	2	1	—	1	6	9	16
	F.	74	17	1	1	—	1	16	16	22
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	M.	5	—	—	—	2	1	2	—	—
	F.	6	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	1
34. All Other Accidents	M.	16	—	1	2	3	3	7	—	—
	F.	11	1	2	1	—	—	2	—	5
35. Suicide	M.	10	—	—	—	—	2	3	3	2
	F.	9	—	—	—	—	2	6	1	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	M.	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1951

Notifiable Disease	Cases Notified in Whole district													Total Cases Notified in Each Ward									
		At Ages—Years																					
	At All Ages	Under 1	1 to2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 30	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Bloxwich Ward	Leamore Ward	Harden Ward	Birchills Ward	Hatherton Ward	Paddock Ward	Bridge Ward	Pleck Ward	Caldmore Ward	Palfrey Ward
Small-Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	18	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	2	1	9	2	4	2	7	1	—	2	1	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	88	—	1	7	12	9	44	8	6	1	—	—	—	21	4	31	1	3	7	8	5	4	4
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—
Measles	2373	105	295	375	366	422	784	16	6	1	1	2	—	380	153	662	168	95	216	101	267	130	201
Whooping Cough	595	82	77	82	85	103	159	3	—	2	1	—	1	97	43	137	38	18	31	32	73	41	85
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	1	—	1	—	2	1	—	2	—	2	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Poliomyelitis–Paralytic	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia	272	31	25	12	16	8	11	6	13	17	24	61	48	50	42	80	13	5	9	14	15	14	30
Malaria	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery	51	10	5	5	6	5	14	—	1	2	2	1	—	1	3	14	14	5	1	2	6	1	4
Food Poisoning	103	9	2	3	2	—	2	—	—	6	6	12	61	—	1	2	1	—	2	—	95	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System....	168	—	2	3	2	2	11	2	46	41	17	36	6	15	19	45	17	6	14	7	18	6	21
Other Forms of .... Tuberculosis	15	—	3	1	4	—	3	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	—	—	—	3	—	4
TOTALS	3703	239	410	489	493	550	1030	38	80	80	53	123	118	570	267	989	257	134	284	165	486	201	350

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria

2 cases of Diphtheria were notified, the same number as in 1950. There were no fatal cases. 1 of the cases was an adult. 1,713 children (825 under the age of five years and 888 between the ages of five and fifteen), were immunised against the disease. 1,228 children were given a reinforcing dose.

Scarlet Fever

88 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as compared with 157 in the previous year. The disease was of a mild character and there were no deaths.

Measles

Measles was more prevalent, 2,373 cases being notified as compared with 290 in the previous year. There were 2 deaths.

Whooping Cough

595 cases of Whooping Cough were notified as compared with 690. There was 1 fatal case.

Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia

272 cases were notified as compared with 183. There were 67 deaths from this cause during the year, an increase of 8 on the previous year. Influenza accounted for 122 deaths as compared with 14 in the previous year.

Dysentery

51 cases of Dysentery were notified during the year.

Other Diseases

Eighteen cases of Erysipelas, 1 case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1 case of Meningococcal Infection, 8 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, 1 case of Paralytic Poliomyelitis, 5 cases of Para-typhoid Fever and 2 cases of Malaria were notified during the year.

Food Poisoning

One hundred and three cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year. Nine of these cases were a part of the outbreak of enteritis occurring in a local general hospital fully reported upon in my report for the year 1950.

In July 1951 an outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred at a hospital in the town due to infected processed meat. The source of the infection was traced and prompt steps were taken to eliminate the infection at the source of manufacture. There were no deaths.

NURSING HOMES

At the end of the year there were two nursing homes in the borough, one to which maternity cases are admitted and one nursing home for old people. The maternity nursing home is registered to take 2 cases, and the home for aged persons is registered to take two cases. No new homes have been registered during the year.

The Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare paid a total of 6 visits to the homes during the year and found them to be in a satisfactory condition.

There were no outbreaks of infectious disease during the year.

There is one Home for Disabled and Old Persons, Registered under the National Assistance Act 1948.

The Senior Medical Officer has paid 5 visits during the year.

SCABIES TREATMENT

The Scabies Clinic at Hatherton Road is still maintained, but the number of cases is slowly declining. The number of sessions and personnel engaged has been reduced during the year.

The availability of the clinic and the ease with which treatment can be obtained has undoubtedly done much to eradicate scabies in the town and we are hopeful that persistent attention to this problem will further reduce the number of cases.

During the year 20 men, 12 women and 51 children received treatment, these cases making a total number of 144 attendances for this purpose.

CLEANSING OF PERSONS

The arrangement whereby unclean persons are cleansed at Beacon Lodge has been continued and throughout the year 20 persons received the necessary treatment by arrangement with the Health Department.

Restrictions on building prevented the establishment of our own Cleansing Station at Hatherton Road and, in agreement with the Walsall Hospital Management Committee, the present arrangements for the cleansing of persons are to be continued.

NURSERIES AND CHILD-MINDERS

The Nurseries and Child-minders Regulations Act, 1948 provides for the registration of nurseries and child-minders where children numbering more than 2 and who come from more than one household are cared for. The Act does not apply to the care of children by relatives.

The care of such children in Walsall has never been a serious problem and up to the end of the year no premises or persons had been registered under the Act.

PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

The arrangements outlined in last years' report for the examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens by the National Laboratories Service have continued throughout the year. The laboratory, situated at Stafford, is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health, and the service is a complete one covering all our possible requirements. The laboratory has instituted a motor collection service and our thanks are due to the Director for the trouble he has taken to give us such an efficient service.

The medical staff of the Health Department send specimens for examination regularly and the service is also open to any of the local medical practitioners.

The bacteriological examination of milk and other specimens is also carried out.

PUBLICITY

The campaign of Health Education has been steadily maintained throughout the year. Appropriate posters, supplied by the Central Council for Health Education, are displayed at the Welfare Centres, Clinics and waiting rooms, and co-operation has also been developed with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Many useful posters are issued by the latter body, drawing the attention of parents to dangers in the home from common household articles, fire, etc., and we feel this to be a necessary part of the education of the young mother. The Diphtheria Immunisation publicity campaign has been pursued continuously.

The system of personal approach to parents relating to vaccination and infant diphtheria immunisation has been continued during the present year. Briefly this approach consists of a reminder, which is sent to parents when their child attains the age of three months, of the facilities which are available for vaccination against smallpox and inviting parents to make an appointment to have their child vaccinated. Upon the child attaining the age of one year a Birthday Card is sent to each child which also reminds the parents of the need for Diphtheria Immunisation and an invitation to make an appointment for this to be carried out. On the whole we feel these steady and persistent reminders of the dangers of diphtheria, and the way in which the disease can be prevented, ultimately has its effect, and, whilst we would wish for a much higher percentage of acceptances both for Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination, nevertheless the progress made in educating the public must be accounted reasonably satisfactory.

During the year two lectures were given to Civil Defence personnel, one upon the value of Home Nursing, with especial emphasis on the nursing of patients at home rather than in hospital, the object being to obviate the unnecessary use of hospital accommodation during the stress of hostilities. The other lecture was on Child Care, with emphasis on the care of children deprived of their parents as a result of enemy action.

If staff were available we should be very glad to extend these talks, for we are convinced they perform a very useful purpose.

As we mentioned in last year's report, particular attention is always paid to the opportunity which presents itself when callers attend at the Health Department. Wherever possible the service about which an enquiry is made is explained in a sympathetic manner and every assistance is always given to enable the enquirer to understand fully what services are available and how best to take advantage of the facilities offered. Our endeavour is always to build up goodwill between the public and the Health Department, for the more we understand each other's problems the better the service will be.

VENEREAL DISEASES

The Venereal Diseases Clinic is situated at Manor Hospital, Walsall, and the Council is no longer responsible for the work carried out at the clinic.

We are, however, still concerned with the incidence of Venereal Diseases in the town and shall continue to work in close co-operation with the Venereal Diseases Medical Officer.

The following table shows the work of the Venereal Diseases Clinic during the year :—

TABLE SHOWING THE WORK OF THE VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC DURING THE YEAR 1951

	Syphilis		Gonorrhœa		Conditions other than Venereal		Totals		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number of cases on Register 1st January, 1951	67	55	44	12	12	8	123	75	198
Number of old cases returned for treatment or observation of same infection	4	2	—	—	—	—	4	2	6
Number of new cases dealt with for the first time	14	18	49	16	93	84	156	118	274
Number of new cases transferred from other centres	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Total cases dealt with	87	75	93	28	105	92	285	195	480
Attendances—Medical examinations	594	502	643	177	434	368	1671	1047	2718
Irrigation, dressings	171	241	272	32	98	22	541	295	836
Total attendances	765	743	915	209	532	390	2212	1342	3554
Number of new cases attending during 1951									
Walsall	23		37		94		154		154
Staffordshire	9		28		83		120		120

	Microscopical		Cultural	Serum		Cerebro Spinal Fluid	Others for Diagnosis of Venereal Disease
	for Syphilis	for Gonorrhœa	for Gonorrhœa	for Syphilis	for Gonorrhœa		
Pathological Work—							
Specimens examined at Walsall Clinic	153	890	360	—	4	41	220
do an Approved Laboratory	—	—	—	512	—	—	30

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT

1946

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Dr. I. M. Brown, the Senior Medical Officer of Health for Maternity and Child Welfare, has supplied the following report upon the Maternity and Child Welfare work in the department :-

"During the year, the decline in clinic attendances noted in last year's report has continued, more noticeably at the Ante-Natal clinics

	1950	1951
New Cases	528	438
Attendances	3,151	2,535

The reduction in the attendances may, in some measure, be due to the increased number of maternity beds becoming available. In May the Manor Hospital Obstetric Unit was able to open all their beds, whereas previously only one half the accommodation could be used owing to shortage of staff. In addition accommodation for applicants has been found in hospitals outside the borough so that now we are approaching the ideal state of affairs where patients can decide for themselves whether they have their confinements at home or in hospital. This availability of beds has meant that our Health Visitors have been called upon to make fewer hospital enquiry visits and reports. It is upon these reports that the selection of cases for admission upon social grounds was based.

The increase in maternity hospital beds does not entirely explain the fall in attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinics, as our Domiciliary Midwives have attended 1,154 cases during the year as compared with 1,179 in the previous year. The reduction in attendances at the clinics is probably due to the fact that patients are booking their own doctors who, in many cases, hold their own Ante-Natal Clinics. In general a hospital bed is not reserved for a patient until she is five months pregnant and it would seem a useful arrangement if applicants were asked to attend Ante-Natal Clinics pending consideration of their applications for admission to hospital. I think this arrangement would be greatly to the advantage of the patient.

During the year 422 blood tests were taken at the clinics; of these 60 patients were found to be Rhesus Negative, but only 2 required treatment. In one case the baby died two days after delivery and the other was treated with satisfactory results. No patient was referred to the Venereal Diseases Clinic.

An effort was made to arrange for appropriate cases from the Ante-Natal Clinics to attend the Manor Hospital Relaxation Clinic, but we were informed that the Physiotherapists could only deal, owing to the pressure of cases, with women very strictly selected. The development of this service must await an increase in staff.

The attendances at the Child Welfare Centres shows a further decline from 26,960 in 1950 to 24,251 in 1951. We think that the figures indicate that the parents are taking advantage of the Medical Practitioner Service, and that the children are, in one way or another, receiving the appropriate medical supervision. We would again stress the educative aspect of the Welfare Centre, and every endeavour is made to impress upon the young mother the necessity for attendance if for this purpose alone. On the 1st November a Child Welfare Centre was opened at the Dudleys Fields Community Centre and, in spite of extremely bad weather, the attendances have been quite encouraging. It is not proposed to hold an Ante-Natal Clinic at the Dudleys Fields Centre as there are no facilities for such a clinic, nor do the number of births in this area justify a session for that purpose.

The interchange of Medical Officers between the Manor Hospital Paediatric Clinic and our Child Welfare Centres has had, much to our regret, to be terminated owing to the opening of the Dudleys Fields Welfare Centre.

There were two private Maternity Homes in the Borough and one of these, Bescot Nursing Home, was closed in March. This Home has since been re-opened as a Home for old, infirm patients. The opening of the Portland House Maternity Home, Wood Green, may have had some bearing on the closing down of this private maternity home. The private nursing home accommodation in the borough now consists of one small home registered for two beds.

On the 31st October Footherly Hall was opened as a Residential Nursery for Children up to five years of age. The medical supervision of this Home has been delegated to the Senior Medical Officer"

HEALTH CENTRES

As previously reported, several sites for Health Centres have been reported to the Health Committee for reservation in various parts of the town, but no progress has been made in the provision of such Centres.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The following tables show the attendances at the five infant welfare centres and four ante-natal and post-natal clinics in the Borough.

Attendances Registered at the Infant Welfare Centres during 1951

Centre	Under 6 months		6—12 months		1—2 years		2—5 years		Total		New Cases
	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	
Pool St.	1450	409	838	193	536	147	975	154	3799	903	194
F'ld Rd.	3164	842	1575	315	1022	233	1582	249	7343	1639	494
L'tonSt.	1287	364	824	173	518	144	882	109	3511	790	208
C'tessSt.	1875	590	1153	278	820	287	669	222	4517	1377	249
Ida Rd.	1643	495	1158	281	857	203	1187	243	4845	1222	269
D'dley's Field's	65	21	61	10	43	9	67	8	236	48	18
Totals	9484	2721	5609	1250	3796	1023	5362	985	24251	5979	1432

A.—Attendances. M.—Medical Examinations.

Attendances Registered at the Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics during 1951

	Pool St.		Field Rd.		Countess Street		Ida Rd.		Totals	
	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.
Ante-natal Cases	403	311	1125	796	370	278	637	446	2535	1831
Ante-natal New Cases	75		185		71		107		438	
Post-natal Cases	4	4	12	12	1	1	5	5	22	22
Post-natal New Cases	4		12		1		5		22	

A.—Attendances. M.—Medical Examinations.

A new Welfare Centre was established at the Community Centre premises in the Dudley's Fields area, and the first session was held on the 1st November, 1951. The Centre is very convenient for the mothers residing in the new housing estates in that area, and we are glad to note that the attendances are gradually increasing.

DENTAL TREATMENT

Active consideration was given during the year to the provision of dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and children under the age of five years who are not in attendance at school. Under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act the Council is required to make such a service available. The establishment of a service has not been possible owing to the serious shortage of Dental Surgeons. Latterly, however, there has been some improvement in the staffing position, and I am glad to say we expect to be able to offer one session per week for expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age early in the year 1952.

The proposals under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act provide for every expectant mother to be examined by a Dental Practitioner following her first attendance at an Ante-Natal Clinic ; for the periodical examination of children under the age of five years and for the necessary treatment to be provided where required, particular attention to be paid to conservative treatment.

DAY NURSERIES

There are two Day Nurseries, one situated at the Bescot Methodist School and the other at the Blakenall Congregational School, and both nurseries have been open throughout the whole year. A stringent review of the cases attending the Day Nurseries was held and, in consequence, the number of cases considered eligible for admission was reduced. Applications for new entrants were also submitted to the new regulations and in consequence, at one time of the year, the Nurseries were not running to full capacity.

The Ministry of Health have postponed the provision of permanent Day Nurseries owing to the financial position and the existing premises are very makeshift and far from ideal for the care and training of young children, though the staff do their best under somewhat difficult circumstances. They are to be congratulated on the high standard of care and the good results obtained under conditions which are very difficult.

Both Nurseries had some infectious disease during the year which, at times, reduced the numbers in attendance. At the Bescot Nursery there were a number of cases of Whooping Cough and at the Blakenall Day Nursery a number of cases of Chickenpox occurred.

The following table shows the average attendances at the nurseries during the year :—

Day Nursery	Average No. on Register	Total No. of attendances	Average daily attendances
Bescot	52	9,834	39.6
Blakenall	54	10,043	40.4

Maternity Outfits

The provision of a maternity outfit to each expectant mother confined at home has been continued, and during the year 1,210 outfits have been issued. The composition of the pack is as follows :-

12 Extra Large Maternity Pads, 24 Large Maternity Pads, individually wrapped, 1 Sheet Tarred Brown Paper, 30 x 36, 1 Accouchement Sheet, 24 x 24, 4 2 oz. packets Surgeons Wool, 3 1 yd. Linen Thread, 6 Cord Dressings (5 x 5 lint), 6 packets Sterilized Cord Powder.

The distribution of the outfits is made through the Municipal Midwives, a sufficient stock being maintained by them to meet all possible needs. There is no doubt the provision of these outfits has been of great benefit to mothers whose confinements are to take place at home and we know they are very much appreciated. The Midwives, also, are assured of adequate equipment for the confinement, together with sterile dressings, and their work has been facilitated accordingly.

Provision of Foods

Arrangements for the sale of infant foods at the Welfare Centres have been continued throughout the year, and with the easing of the supply position we have been able to meet every demand which has been made upon this service. In addition to the proprietary foods which are sold at the Centres, arrangements for the supply of National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin Tablets have been made in conjunction with the Food Office, a service which is much appreciated by the mothers attending the Centres. Such foods are available at all Welfare Centre sessions and the Food Office also make arrangements for the distribution of Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice and Vitamin Tablets at the Ante-Natal Clinics. We consider this method of distribution to be the ideal one for it does ensure that, at the Welfare Sessions, particularly, the supervision of children is the more easily maintained.

The following table shows the types and amounts of foods sold during the year at the Welfare Centres and it will be noted that provision has been fully made for every type of food to be sold to meet individual children's needs :—

11,295	lbs.	Cow and Gate Dried Milk
2,191	lbs.	Ostermilk
1,309	lbs.	Trufood
13	lbs.	Frailac
53	lbs.	Allergilac
14	lbs.	Daltose
1,050	tins	Lactagol
1,925	tubs	Virol
2,517	tins	Ovaltine
226	lbs.	Cod Liver Oil and Malt
983	pkts.	Farex
614	pkts.	Scotts Cereal Infant Food

In addition, should any child need a special food, even for only a limited period, steps are immediately taken to obtain a supply for the mother, though the purchase of such foods may occasionally involve the department in a slight financial loss.

UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

Care of Illegitimate Children. The Walsall County Borough, as the Welfare Authority, is a constituent authority of the Staffordshire County Council Scheme for the care of illegitimate children and their mothers.

The following report has been supplied by the Secretary of the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare Work :—

"Thirty-five cases in which illegitimate births occurred during 1951 have been dealt with by Sister Ellis, the Outdoor Worker for the area.

Four mothers remained in their own homes for their confinements, 17 went to hospital, 13 to Diocesan Homes and 1 to a Roman Catholic Home.

The babies born in 1951 were accommodated as follows :—

Seventeen remained with their mothers at home, 12 were adopted through the Diocesan Association and Burton Association, 1 was placed by mother for adoption, 2 were placed in the care of the Children's Department, 1 remained with mother in a Mother and Baby Home, 1 died and there was 1 miscarriage.

In all cases Sister Ellis has sought to get financial assistance from the father of the baby but in only three cases were Affiliation Orders granted. In three cases in which Court proceedings were started there was insufficient evidence.

Nine of the cases concerned married women where the husband was not the father of the baby ; 4 of these women were later reconciled to their husbands. Two girls married the putative fathers.

Several mothers who had applied for help prior to 1951 have kept in friendly touch with Sister Ellis and arrangements were made in 10 cases of girls whose babies were expected in 1952.

PREMATURE INFANTS

Notifications were received in respect of 142 infants whose birth weight was 5½ lbs or under, a decrease over the previous year when 158 such infants were notified to us. In some cases the notifications applied to infants who, although the birth weight was 5½ lbs or less, were really full-term, but these infants were given the same care as those prematurely born.

Of the 142 infants notified, 65 were born at home, 75 in hospital and 2 in a private nursing home. There were 3 sets of triplets, 14 sets of twins. Five of the infants born at home were transferred to hospital. Eight of the infants nursed entirely at home died as follows : 7 in the first 24 hours and 1 on the second to seventh day. Two of the 5 infants who were born at home, and transferred to hospital, died as follows : 1 in the first 24 hours and 1 on the second to seventh day.

Fourteen of the infants born in hospital died as follows : 5 in the first 24 hours 7 on the second to seventh day, and 2 on the eighth to twenty-eighth day. The remainder, 55 born at home, 61 born in hospital and 2 born in a private nursing home, survived at the end of 28 days.

Of the 75 infants who died under the age of one year, 32 were certified as having died from prematurity ; 24 of these babies were of low birth weight.

Emergency Maternity Service

Arrangements are in force for the services of an emergency team of doctors and nurses from Manor Hospital with the necessary equipment, to attend complicated cases of labour on the district when required.

Maternal Mortality

There was one maternal death during the year. The death rate is 0.48 per thousand of live and still births, as against a death rate in England and Wales of 0.79.

Infectious Diseases

There was one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year. After treatment, the vision was unimpaired and the infant made a good recovery.

There were eight cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified during the year.

INFANT MORTALITY

The fears we expressed last year that we should be unable to maintain the record low rate for infant mortality have unfortunately been fulfilled as the rate for this year receded to 37.18 as compared with 28.64 in 1950. However, this latest figure is the second lowest ever attained in the borough and compares with the figures of 29.6 and 33.9 for England and Wales and the Great Towns respectively.

Examination of the following table reveals that of the 75 deaths occurring in infants under one year, 51 occurred during the first four weeks of life, and of these 32 were associated with prematurity. The remaining deaths during the first year were fairly evenly distributed over the succeeding eleven months and totalled 24, as compared with 30 in the previous year, whereas in marked contrast, the number of deaths at under four weeks represented an increase of no less than 22 as compared with the same group in 1950. It is generally believed that deaths under four weeks of age are attributable to causes which also operate ante-natally and are closely correlated with the causes of still births, and that improvement in both rates are to be sought in improved ante-natal care. This ante-natal care should comprise not only a high standard of obstetric care, but also high standards in the nutrition and health education of the childbearing woman. The general impression conveyed by the figures is that, whilst substantial benefits have accrued on the curative side of child care, corresponding benefits have not been observed on the preventive side. One may speculate as to the extent this deterioration in the position in respect of infants under four weeks of age can be correlated with the falling attendances at the local authority's ante-natal and welfare clinics, with consequent loss of health education of the mother.

An analysis of the 32 deaths attributed to premature birth reveals that 24 deaths occurred in hospital, 19 having been born in hospital and 5 transferred to hospital from home, and, of the remaining 8 born at home, 7 died within 24 hours of birth and the other one within one week. This would tend to show that there is little to be done of a remedial nature in regard to prematurity as the great majority of premature infants receive a high standard of care, and this serves to emphasise the need for preventive measures to be taken ante-natally. An endeavour is being made to improve co-operation in this field as between the local health authority's staff and the general practitioner by encouraging closer co-operation between the midwives and health visitors on the one hand and the general practitioner on the other.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1951

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One year of age

Causes of Death	Total Deaths under 1 year	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 & under 3 months	3 & under 6 months	6 & under 9 months	9 & under 12 months	Bloxwich	Leamore	Harden	Birchills	Hatherton	Paddock	Bridge	Pleck	Caldmore	Palfrey
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Common Infectious Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	6	—	1	1	1	3	2	—	—	1	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Premature Birth	32	30	1	1	—	32	—	—	—	—	2	2	9	4	—	—	2	4	6	3
Congenital Malformations Birth Injury ; Infant Diseases	16	9	3	—	—	12	2	2	—	—	3	2	7	—	2	1	1	—	—	—
Tubercular Diseases	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis & Pneumonia	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	3	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
Other Causes	12	2	—	1	1	4	3	—	3	2	4	2	3	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Totals	75	41	5	3	2	51	7	4	6	7	14	8	22	6	3	2	4	7	6	3

Nett Births in the Year—Legitimate, 1,939, Illegitimate, 78.

Nett Deaths in the Year of Legitimate Infants, 69 ; Illegitimate Infants, 6.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE

The number of births registered during the year was 2,017, a decrease of 43 over the previous year. 1,154 cases representing 1,165 births were attended by the Municipal Midwifery Staff, who were also responsible for 6,301 ante-natal home visits to their patients.

All the midwives, with two exceptions, are qualified to administer analgesia, having received their training either at the Birmingham Maternity Hospital, where special courses were arranged, or as a part of their S.C.M. qualification. The Department has provided six gas and air outfits and these are available for use in any part of the town. The outfits are conveyed to the patient's home at the request of the midwife by the ambulance service, thus ensuring the minimum delay when the outfit is required. The service is much appreciated by the patients and those availing themselves of the anæsthetic speak highly of the relief obtained. During the year 548 expectant mothers who were confined at home availed themselves of the gas and air facilities.

The administration of Pethedine by the Midwives was commenced in February 1951, and during the year the drug was administered to 283 patients requiring an analgesic.

In conjunction with the Walsall Hospital Management Committee the Department arranged for pupil midwives taking their training for the qualification of State Certified Midwife at Manor Hospital to receive their district training under the supervision of the Council's Midwifery Staff. During the year nine pupils had received training under Municipal Midwives approved by the Central Midwives' Board. We are glad to assist in the training of pupils and hope the scheme will progress satisfactorily.

Over one-half of the total number of births occurred on the district and it is our aim to encourage mothers to have their confinements at home whenever this is possible. The Midwifery Service provides trained staff, free of charge, together with free maternity outfits and a personal relationship which means so much to the expectant mother.

Our midwifery establishment is now complete and we are able to meet all the demands made upon the service ; indeed our Midwives undertake the nursing of mothers discharged from the Maternity Units before the fourteenth day from their confinement and during 1951, 396 such mothers were attended. Although this

additional nursing throws a considerable volume of work upon the service we are always glad to assist the hospitals in order that as many mothers as possible, requiring institutional confinement, should be enabled to obtain admission. We are very glad indeed to have maintained this excellent co-operation with the Walsall Hospital Management Committee's provision; indeed, without this effective co-operation the Midwifery Service of the town would be greatly handicapped.

We have again to record the excellent co-operation which exists between Manor Hospital and the extern Ante-Natal Clinics and to report that no difficulty has occurred in obtaining admission from the Clinics for any case judged to require hospital treatment.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service—1951
(including Nursing Homes)

	Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Nursing Homes	Totals
No. of Midwives practising in the Borough at the end of 1951 (excluding Hospitals)—			
(*a*) Employed by the Council....	17	—	17
(*b*) In private practice	—	2	2
	17	2	19
	Domiciliary Cases	Cases in Nursing Homes	Totals
No. of cases in the Borough attended by Midwives—			
(*a*) Employed by the Council—			
(i) As Midwives	732	—	732
(ii) As Maternity Nurses	422	—	422
(*b*) In private practice—			
(i) As Midwives	—	70	70
(ii) As Maternity Nurses	—	10	10
TOTALS (i) As Midwives	732	70	802
TOTALS (ii) As Maternity Nurses	422	10	432

HEALTH VISITING

The scheme for the training of Health Visitors arranged in conjunction with the Birmingham City Council has again been in operation throughout the year, when we had one pupil undergoing training in Birmingham. Despite extensive advertising we were

unable to attract more applicants for training, and of late years it has become increasingly difficult to persuade suitable members of the nursing profession to take up this type of service.

At the end of the year we had 8 trained Health Visitors, 1 Pupil Health Visitor, 3 State Registered Nurses, 2 of whom were employed as Clinic Nurses and 1 as Tuberculosis Visitor. The demand for Health Visitors throughout the country is very heavy and one of our difficulties is that once our newly trained Health Visitors have completed their two years' agreed service with this Authority the tendency is for them to obtain posts in more pleasant districts. For instance 3 of our Students who had completed their period of service in the Department left the town, 2 to take up appointments in Warwickshire and 1 to take up an appointment in Rhodesia.

The training scheme, in brief, allows for the payment of the training fees, examination fees, and three-quarters of the minimum health visitor's salary whilst training in Birmingham. On return to the department the health visitor, after successfully passing her examination, gives a minimum of two years' service to the Council.

We have continued arrangements with the Birmingham Health Visitors' Training Course whereby students attending that course come to Walsall for a part of their practical training and almost every aspect of the work of the department is covered during these visits. The students themselves are highly appreciative of the instruction they receive and of the methods and activities we are able to show them, and they were particularly impressed by the completeness of the work which a town of this size is able to show. The picture of a health department is more readily seen in a town of 100,000 population than in a large city, and the students can more readily see the work as a whole.

A number of our health visitors constantly give lectures to school children on mothercraft and personal hygiene and at the conclusion of the course of lectures an examination is held and certificates of proficiency are awarded. The course includes a visit to an Infant Welfare Centre where practical demonstrations are given to the girls and full opportunity is taken of this visit to explain very fully the function of the Welfare Centre. The girls are taught what services are available and how they can best be served by the facilities offered at the centre, and we feel that such familiarity with the services will be of good use in the years to come.

The sewing classes commenced last year at the Welfare Centres have been continued and extended during the year, three classes now being held at three separate Child Welfare Centres. In conjunction with the Education Committee a professional instructress is employed who teaches the making of children's garments and the

remaking of old garments. The salary of the instructress is paid by the Education Committee as a measure of adult education. These classes are held weekly throughout the year, apart from the holiday periods, and are much appreciated by the mothers attending. An exhibition of the garments made was held at the Ida Road Child Welfare Centre and was attended by a considerable number of interested persons. We think the standard of work shown was very high and we are quite satisfied that this side of child welfare instruction is of real economic benefit to the mothers. Advantage is taken of the sewing classes by the Health Visitors to give short talks on various aspects of child care and health education, and, in the pleasant atmosphere of the classes, such instruction is more readily appreciated than in the atmosphere of a formal lecture. The subjects of the talks are varied as much as possible and during the year Sanitary Inspectors and Midwives, in addition to the Health Visitors, have spoken on their respective duties.

During the year a very large number of visits were paid by Health Visitors in connection with the scheme of B.C.G. vaccination of children in their final year at the Secondary Modern Schools. The Medical Research Council are conducting an investigation into children inoculated with B.C.G. and Vole Vaccines, and this work has necessitated a continuous follow-up by the staff to ensure the children attend at the investigation clinic. As most of the young persons are now working a large number of evening visits have had to be made by the staff to complete the required questionnaire, and we are able to say that the results of our follow-up have been very successful. This work is much appreciated by the Medical Research Council.

Arrangements have been made to conduct an Infant Morbidity Survey covering every birth occurring in 1952, and during the month of November of this year a pilot survey was carried out by the Health Visiting Staff covering all births occurring in that month. The object of the pilot survey was to prepare the staff for the difficulties which are bound to arise in such a survey and to test the machinery which would commence on the 1st January.

Table showing visits paid by Health Visitors

Expectant mothers		Children under one year of age		Children between the ages of one and five		Other Classes		
First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	Totals Visits
521	649	1953	13558	—	23086	1969	3099	40392

HOME NURSING

The duty laid upon the Council to make provision for securing a nursing service for all persons who require nursing in their own homes is carried out by agreement with the Trustees of the Victoria Nursing Institution. The Institution provides the staff and a joint Committee of the Institution and the Council controls the Service. This arrangement is working quite well.

The staff at the end of the year consisted of 1 Lady Superintendent, 1 Assistant Superintendent, 6 full-time Nurses and 4 part-time Nurses.

It is a matter for commendation that over 6,000 more visits have been paid during the current year than last year, with a reduced staff. Such results can only be obtained by a keen sense of duty on the part of the Nursing Staff. The provision of an adequate Home Nursing Service materially helps to shorten the stay in hospital for some of the patients and thereby releases beds for urgent cases.

The District Nurses visit all types of cases and in particular they have also visited 52 cases of tuberculosis during the year, a total number of 3,356 visits being paid to tuberculosis cases.

Although the Committee would very much like to have the services of a Male Nurse, it has not been possible to recruit one, although the demand for the service of such an employee is general.

36,719 visits have been paid by the Nurses to patients in their own homes during the year, covering 942 cases. This compares with 807 cases dealt with in the previous year and we are glad to report this increase in the service provided.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

VACCINATION

During the year 452 Primary Vaccinations were carried out, 214 by doctors at the Infant Welfare Centres and 238 by General Practitioners.

There were 78 re-vaccinations and 28 unsuccessful vaccinations.

The following table shows the ages at vaccination and re-vaccination :—

	Under 1 year	1 year	2—4 years	5—14 years	15 years and over	Total
Vaccinated	369	14	18	15	36	452
Re-vaccinated	—	—	—	3	75	78

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Arrangements are made at each of our Child Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries and School Clinics for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria. Visits are also paid to the schools for the immunisation of school children and for the administration of re-inforcing doses.

During 1951, 825 children under the age of five years and 888 between the ages of five and fifteen were immunised. In addition 1,228 children were given a re-inforcing dose.

Of the total, 335 were immunised by private medical practitioners under the Authority's scheme, the remainder being immunised by the Local Health Authority's own medical officers.

It is estimated that 31.3% of all children under the age of five years have been immunised.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Table showing number of children immunised each year, by age groups

Year immunised	Under 5	5-14	Total	No. of children given re-inforcing injection	Cases of Diphtheria notified
1951	825	888	1713	1228	2
1950	570	956	1526	1413	2
1949	1171	1167	2338	2111	3
1948	1224	1238	2462	4314	3
1947	1089	725	1814	333	14
1946	957	1104	2061	598	18
1945	1144	1409	2553	*	34
1944	1136	1610	2746		76
1943	1567	2488	4055		196
1942	1708	2766	4474		201
1941	883	2233	3116		117
1940	106	1097	1203		58
Total	12380	17681	30061	12597	724

* Prior to 1946 2,600 children had received a re-inforcing injection.
Prior to 1940 10,835 children were fully immunised.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The work of the Ambulance Service again shows an increase over the previous year. A total of 23,521 cases has been conveyed during the year as against 22,369 in 1950. The mileage run has increased from 105,346 to 117,230 miles in 1951. Of the cases dealt with 1,095 were emergency ambulance cases, 554 were journeys carried out for the Midwifery Service and 22,426 were ordinary cases of illness conveyed, mainly to and from hospitals. It would appear that we have about reached the peak usage of the service as there is definite evidence of a levelling out of demand.

During 1951 three new ambulances were delivered, one of which was a clinic type ambulance. with seating accommodation for six passengers. The latter vehicle has been found to be very useful for the conveyance of sitting cases to and from hospital, convalescent homes, etc., and we intend to make further use of this method of transport in future years.

At the end of the year the fleet consisted of seven ambulances and one clinic type ambulance, with two old ambulances in reserve for Civil Defence instructional purposes.

The Ambulance Service is utilised for the delivery of the gas and air analgesic apparatus, at the request of the Midwives, to women in confinement and the 24 hour service that is available enables the apparatus to be delivered promptly upon request. The Ambulance Service was used on 554 occasions, either for the transport of the apparatus or for the urgent transport of Midwives or Home Nurses.

The staff now consists of 1 Ambulance Supervisor and 21 Ambulance Drivers, 4 of whom are women. The employment of women in this capacity is of considerable benefit as they are able to give that personal touch with women patients that is so much appreciated. All members of the staff have successfully passed their St. John examination and it is hoped to hold refresher courses during the coming year.

The demand on the service is very heavy and it is gratifying to report, especially when it is considered that over 23,500 cases have been carried during the year, that no complaints of any substance have been received. In fact, we have many expressions of gratitude for the services which have been rendered.

The following table shows the work carried out by the Ambulance Service during the year :—

Month	CALLS	JOURNEYS													CASES							MILEAGE		
		Illness			Emergency	Other			Abortive and Service			Midwives, Home Nurses Analgesia Apparatus etc.			Illness			Emergency	Other			Ambulances	Sitting Case Ambulances	Sitting Case Cars
		AMB:	S.C.A.	S.C.C.	AMB:	AMB:	S.C.A.	S.C.C.	AMB:	S.C.A.	S.C.C.	AMB:	S.C.A.	S.C.C.	AMB.	S.C.A.	S.C.C.	AMB.	AMB.	S.C.A.	S.C.C.			
Jan.	1900	532	—	29	98	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	—	36	1713	—	67	98	—	—	—	8185	—	1020
Feb.	1605	526	—	37	64	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	53	1454	—	71	64	—	—	—	7542	—	1034
March	1735	506	11	60	71	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	18	30	1495	25	135	71	—	—	—	7568	1084	1142
April	1904	532	37	22	76	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	10	34	1702	80	39	76	—	—	—	7652	1451	762
May	1867	462	59	53	96	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	16	36	1577	125	63	96	—	—	—	6388	2224	1591
June	2154	464	80	13	110	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	20	24	1912	95	13	110	—	—	—	6788	2370	619
July	2200	590	74	—	78	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	64	—	2002	217	—	78	—	—	—	8199	2803	—
Aug.	1862	428	94	—	90	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	41	—	1537	256	—	90	—	—	—	6496	2459	—
Sept.	1835	398	54	—	96	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	47	—	1711	76	—	96	—	—	—	7291	2728	—
Oct.	2126	472	86	—	113	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	34	—	1856	194	—	113	—	—	—	7543	2644	—
Nov.	2062	520	66	—	103	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	39	—	1872	124	—	103	—	—	—	8598	1931	—
Dec.	2088	451	73	—	100	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	30	—	1850	165	—	100	—	—	—	7289	1829	—
Total	23338	5881	634	214	1095	—	—	—	—	37	—	22	319	213	20681	1357	388	1095	—	—	—	89539	21523	6168

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Sick Room Appliances Service

From the end of January 1949, arrangements were made for Sick-Room Appliances to be made available, upon a certificate of a hospital, family doctor, district nurse, or health visitor. Sick-Room Appliances are issued on loan, free of cost, and the service has proved to be most beneficial.

The Appliances are housed at the Ambulance Station, the Ambulance Supervisor being responsible for the issue and return of all appliances and for the care and maintenance of all mechanical appliances. The Ambulance Station is a very suitable place for the issue of such articles, as a 24 hour service is ensured.

During the year the following issues were made :—

Rubber Sheets	242	
Rubber Bed Pans	4	
Back Rests	209	
Urinals	96	
Feeding Cups	5	
Crutches	14	pairs
Air Rings	246	
Spinal Carriages	1	
Wheel Chairs	46	
Walking Sticks	39	
Air Beds	4	
Bed Cradles	27	
Bedpans	267	
Sputum Cups	6	
Bed Tables	7	
Chair Commodes	1	
Steam Kettle	2	

This service, which started in quite a modest way, has grown out of all recognition and we think it is true to say that it is one of our most appreciated services. The large number of patients who have to be cared for at home are assured that the ordinary sick appliances which they require can be supplied under the Council's scheme, free of cost, and we have received many expressions of gratitude for the help which has been given.

A small deposit is required for each article loaned and this is refunded when the article is returned to the Depot. In those cases where the patient is unable to arrange for the collection of the article, every endeavour is made to see that delivery is made by the Department's transport facilities.

Milk Assistance Scheme

The Health Committee, implementing their proposals for the care and after-care of tuberculous patients, instituted a scheme, in conjunction with the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee, for the supply of milk to tuberculous patients. Broadly the scheme provides for the free issue of one pint of milk per day where the total weekly income does not exceed an amount specified in the Council's scale. This scale was modelled upon that prepared by the Association of Municipal Corporations and the arrangements so far appear to be reasonably adequate.

During the year, 16 patients, for varying periods, have been supplied with one pint of milk per day, free of charge.

The total amount of milk supplied during the year was 581 gallons.

A grant of free milk is issued by the Department upon the certificate of the Tuberculosis Officer. Close liaison is maintained between the Tuberculosis Officer who, of course, is now an officer of the Regional Hospital Board, and this Department. The officers of the Chest Clinic and of this Department confer regularly upon the needs of tuberculous patients. The Tuberculosis Health Visitor has an office at the Chest Clinic and works with the Tuberculosis Officer. Contact is thereby maintained between the tuberculous patient and other activities of the Health Department.

Milk is supplied through the patient's own Registered Milk Retailer so that the patient is not put to any trouble to obtain milk through a special source, a benefit appreciated by the patients.

Provision of Clothing, Bedding, etc.

The Tuberculosis After-care Committee has continued its work on behalf of the Council. Extra assistance for the Tuberculous patient in the form of additional food, change of air, clothing, better home conditions, extra beds and bedding, and more suitable occupation are the Committee's main activities. The Committee has functioned for many years and has been of great help to a large number of patients. Mainly the funds are derived from voluntary sources but the Council also make a monetary grant to assist the Committee in its good work.

The following is a summary of the help provided during the year :—

3 patients were given monetary grants to meet extraordinary liabilities.

27 patients were supplied with clothing.
11 patients were supplied with footwear.
9 patients were supplied with bedding.
1 patients travelling expenses were paid each month from March, to visit his child at St. Wulstans Hospital, Malvern.
173 patients received the usual Christmas grant.
A distribution of food parcels was made to tuberculous patients at Christmas.
Toys, games and books were distributed to many children of tuberculous patients at Christmas.

We feel this is worthwhile work for it helps the tuberculous patient to feel that he is not alone or forgotten and that there is always someone he can turn to when his difficulties appear to be insurmountable.

CONVALESCENT TREATMENT

Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, provides for the prevention of illness, care and after-care. Under these provisions the Local Authority may make arrangements to provide convalescent treatment for persons certified to require such treatment either by hospitals or by their medical practitioner. The convalescent treatment so provided shall not be given to persons needing medical care.

At the end of the year the following patients had received convalescent treatment :—

27 children to the Ormerod Convalescent Home, St. Annes-on-Sea, 26 for 4 weeks. and 1 for 8 weeks.
6 children to the Charnwood Forest Convalescent Home, 4 for 4 weeks, and 2 for 8 weeks.
2 Adults to the "Resthaven" Convalescent Home, Exmouth, 1 for 3 weeks, and 1 for 2 weeks.
1 Adult to the Llandudno Convalescent Home for Women. for 2 weeks.
1 Adult to St. Joseph's Convalescent Home, Bournemouth, for 2 weeks.
1 Adult to Clevedon Convalescent Home for 2 weeks
1 Adult to Gable House, Droitwich, for 4 weeks.

The children's part of the scheme is run on similar lines to that operated by the Walsall Poor Children's Country Holiday Society and co-ordination of the two schemes has been effected.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following report has been supplied by Dr. A. Wilson Russell, a Chest Physician of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, who is in charge of the Walsall Chest Clinic which deals

with cases of tuberculosis. Dr. Russell is also responsible to the Walsall Council in all matters relating to environmental conditions of tuberculous cases in the borough, a part of his salary being paid by the Council for this purpose. The report deals with this aspect of his work only :—

"During the year 1951 the work of prevention and after-care proceeded steadily. There is a shortage of beds but an attempt is made to give new patients a period in Sanatorium as soon as possible after diagnosis, to initiate treatment and to teach them the correct mode of living. Contacts, especially children in tuberculous families, are examined and followed up by close supervision both at the Chest Clinic and in the homes. In this connection the Tuberculosis Health Visitor does invaluable work.

The After-Care Committee gives great assistance in providing timely help. Extra beds and bedding and financial help in emergencies are given to tuberculous families in need.

The Annual Seal Sale raised the sum of £311. 17. 3d., thanks to the efforts of the schools and other loyal supporters.

The Civic Guild of Help and Citizen's Advice Bureau continue to give great assistance and our thanks are due to them for their help ; the Assistance Board is also always willing to help tuberculous cases to the utmost.

Housing is a major difficulty, but during the year many families have been rehoused and there is complete co-operation between the Housing Committee, through the Medical Officer of Health, and the Chest Clinic. The help given by the Ministry of Labour in finding new jobs and offering training courses for suitable patients is of great value. There is, however, a gap between the time when the patient is discharged from hospital until he is fit to return to work, and during this period facilities for occupational therapy would be a big help. Some patients, although fit enough for light work, remain infectious and in such cases a "Sheltered Factory" would provide a workplace where they could find useful employment without danger to others. Hostel accommodation for infectious cases who have completed their period of sanatorium treatment and who have overcrowded homes or no home of their own, and cannot find lodgings, would supply an important need.

The Medical Research Council trial of B.C.G. for children about to leave school at age 15, has been in operation during the year. There is close liaison between Dr. Hughes, who is conducting this survey, and the Chest Clinic.

During the year 134 suitable cases were given B.C.G. vaccination, this being part of the prevention scheme of the Council and not associated with the Medical Research Council trial.

At the end of July 1951, Dr. Welton left to take up a new appointment and his departure after 15 years untiring effort on behalf of his patients caused some disturbance in the Chest Clinic work, but, thanks to the loyal work of the staff of the Clinic, the continuity of the service has been maintained.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The Domestic Help Service has now been in operation for approximately five years, and during that time has become firmly established as a service meeting a real need of the public. The number of domestic helps employed has increased and at the end of the year 21 women were engaged, 14 in full-time employment and 7 working half-time. The greatest care is taken in the selection of women for employment in this service and we are able to report that the standard of the helps employed is as high as can reasonably be expected.

Whereas in previous years we had difficulty in maintaining the balance between demand and supply of domestic helps so as to avoid the temporary unemployment of the staff, during the year 1951 our difficulty has been that the demand for helps has exceeded the number employed. Many towns of similar size to Walsall employ many more domestic helps and there is no doubt we could provide a much more comprehensive service if the necessary financial provision was allowed by the Council.

As stated in last year's report, priority for the services of domestic helps is always given to cases of confinement, and once again we have to report the small number of women who avail themselves of the service for home confinement. This situation is most disturbing when it is remembered that mothers receive a grant from the Ministry of National Insurance which is specifically paid for the purpose of obtaining domestic assistance. The money so provided is used for other purposes, but we would again stress the benefits which the mother in confinement can receive through being relieved of her domestic worries. Every effort has been made by the Superintendent Health Visitor and her staff to publicise the scheme by posters displayed at the Ante-Natal Clinics and public offices by talks to Women's Groups and other organisations, and the Municipal Midwives are asked to draw the attention of their patients to the service provided.

The greatest demand for domestic helps is in cases of sickness and more particularly the chronic cases, which require domestic help over a very long period. Acute cases of sickness are given

priority over chronic cases and this, owing to our limited staff, means the withdrawal of help from the latter type of case at very frequent intervals. The situation thus created is to be deplored for some of the old folks for whom help is provided rely almost entirely upon the service to meet their daily needs. Of course, in the circumstances,even intermittent help is better than none at all, but we should like to be in a position to maintain the domestic help in a home once she has been placed there, so long as the need exists.

Again we would draw attention to the problem of the aged sick for whom hospital beds are not now generally available. The number of such persons in the country is increasing, and we shall have to face this problem more realistically as time goes on. The National Assistance Board makes very extensive financial provision for obtaining casual help for the aged, and the Council together with the Civic Guild of Help, also endeavours to meet the large demand for the care which is undoubtedly required. This problem promises to be an ever increasing one and should receive the very active consideration of all those responsible for the care of the sick and infirm.

Again we should like to report on the very personal character of the Domestic Help Service. Everyone who applies for help is in some sort of trouble and it has always been the aim of the department to give assistance to such persons. Each applicant receives personal attention and is made to feel that, if at all possible, the service will shoulder some of their overwhelming difficulties, and that we are successful in this approach is evidenced by the many expressions of gratitude which we receive from persons who have been assisted. We shall always endeavour to keep this service on a personal basis for we feel that the cases we assist are deserving of such help in their time of trouble.

The following are the statistics for the year :—

No. of Helps employed during the year	36
No. of Helps employed at 31st December, 1951	21
No. of confinement cases at which help was supplied	61
No. of tuberculosis cases at which help was supplied	4
No. of other cases at which help was supplied	91
Total hours worked at confinement cases	4,732
Total hours worked at tuberculosis cases	1,824
Total hours worked at other cases	21,907

MENTAL HEALTH

Last year we drew attention to the considerable increase in the number of voluntary patients admitted to Saint Matthew's Hospital at Burntwood, and we have to report that the position has been

maintained during 1951, 90 patients being admitted voluntarily as against 85 in the previous year. As we pointed out in our previous report, whilst there are certain disadvantages in the procedure, the admission of voluntary patients to mental hospitals is to be encouraged.

The following table shews the number of cases dealt with during the year :—

No. of Health Service Certified patients removed to Saint Matthew's Hospital, Burntwood	60
No. of Health Service Voluntary patients admitted to Saint Matthew's Hospital, Burntwood	90
No. of Health Service cases, alleged to be of unsound mind, investigated	31
No. of patients referred for after-care	88
No. of after-care visits paid	188

In addition various other enquiries regarding patients have been dealt with.

The arrangements whereby the after-care visiting of patients discharged from mental hospital is carried out by the Health Visiting staff have been continued and our experience of this method of "follow-up" indicates that the system adopted has been a wise one. The volume of work to be done in this connection does not warrant the employment of a whole-time After-Care Officer and we find it to be better for the after-care work to be done by the Health Visiting staff rather than by the Duly Authorised Officers, it being borne in mind that the Duly Authorised Officers are the persons concerned in the patient's removal in the first instance.

On the whole the Health Visitor's reports indicate that they meet with considerable success in their efforts to help and advise patients discharged from the Mental Hospital. There are, of course, the difficult patients who require a great deal of patient visiting before the necessary confidence between the visitor and patient has been established. We do feel, however, that the visits are well worth while and are helping to re-establish the mental patient in the community.

As we stated in our previous report, quite a number of patients have been assisted to resume their employment and others have been helped to obtain employment more suited to their capacity. The Authorised Officer does a considerable amount of work behind the scenes, the sole object being to convince the patient that he has a friend to whom he can turn in his trouble, a friend who can smooth out his difficulties and even his financial embarrassment and so assist him to regain his confidence and his place in the community.

MENTAL DEFECTIVES

The tables given at the end of this section of the Report show the total number of ascertained mental defectives in the Borough and the ascertainment of such persons during 1951, together with other information relating to the care of the mentally defective.

During 1951 the Mental Welfare Officers paid 1065 statutory visits and held 1069 statutory interviews, and 126 voluntary and education visits and 124 voluntary and education interviews in connection with these cases.

ST. MARGARET'S HOSPITAL, GREAT BARR PARK

There are 261 Walsall patients in St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr Park. The Mental Welfare Officers continue to be responsible for reports on home conditions for leave of absence, reports on home conditions for trial on licence and discharge from Order, reports to the Visitors for the County of Stafford and periodic reports on patients on licence to the Medical Superintendent of St. Margaret's. Fifty-five patients are on licence in various parts of the country, of whom thirty-five are supervised by the Mental Welfare Officers and there are three patients in Rampton Hospital, Darenth Park and Coleshill Hall.

The Mental Welfare Officers continue to find employment for patients who are considered suitable for licence, and to supervise them afterwards. In passing it must be noted that Walsall now has a waiting list for admission to St. Margaret's Hospital; vacancies are becoming more difficult to secure as Walsall no longer enjoys priority as part owners of the Hospital.

During the year, nine Walsall cases were discharged from their Order under the Mental Deficiency Acts; in addition three cases lapsed by "Operation of Law."

The Senior Mental Welfare Officer again accompanied a party of girls on licence from St. Margaret's Hospital for a week's holiday at the Y.W.C.A. Hostel, Rhyl.

OCCUPATION CENTRE

The Occupation Centre continues to do good work for the children who cannot be educated within the Education system; the emphasis is on "training" - not filling in time.

The Junior children attend the Occupation Centre daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Senior Girls' Class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and the Senior Boys Class meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Senior Girls and Boys have 1/- a week pocket money, provided their attendance at classes is good.

Rug making, stool seating, embroidery, elementary handicraft, percussion band, eurythmics, country dancing, puppetry, games and speech training form part of the curriculum of this flourishing centre. A number of small children were admitted during the year and the kindergarten group is still growing in size.

Summer outings were organised and in addition a week's holiday at the National Association for Mental Health Holiday Home at Rhyl was enjoyed by a party of boys from the Occupation Centre and we are again indebted to the Sunday Cinema Licensing Committee for a handsome donation which made these trips and holiday possible.

Three students from the Supervisor's Course of the National Association for Mental Health spent several weeks at the Centre during the year and more students are expected for training. Reports on the students work are sent to the National Association for Mental Health.

During the year the sum of £37. 13. 6d. was received from the sale of work made at the Occupation Centre.

MENTAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION

The Senior Mental Welfare Officer is the Secretary of the Association, and she and the Mental Welfare Officer are responsible for the work undertaken by the Association. There is a large number of Voluntary patients on the register, and the Association is serving a useful purpose in supervising cases which do not come within the purview of the Statutory Committee.

Educationally Sub-normal Children

There are 237 children on the Education Register as attending or recommended for Special Schools, and the homes of these children are visited from time to time.

Reports are sent to the Education Authority each quarter and the homes are visited and reported upon before the children attending Special Residential Schools go home on holiday. The shortage of Special School facilities is still a most serious handicap to the proper education of those children who are found to be educationally subnormal, the placing of suitable girls in Special Schools being now impossible.

It is felt keenly that the absence of a Day Special School for boys and girls is still depriving these educationally subnormal children of the education which was envisaged by the Education Act 1944, which provided for education according to a child's needs. Special classes in some schools are partially meeting the children's needs.

GENERAL

During the year eight of the Nurses taking the course for the Health Visitor's Certificate in Birmingham have each spent some time in the Mental Welfare Department and Occupation Centre and have expressed their gratitude for the permission granted to see and learn something of this section of the Health Services.

During the year the Mental Welfare Officers have, as formerly, given evidence at Juvenile Courts, Quarter Sessions and Police Courts and the co-operation between the Magistrates, Magistrates' Clerk, the Police and the Officers, as well as with other Social Agencies is excellent.

The Mental Welfare Officers were invited to attend and speak at a Children's Christmas Service in Wednesbury Road Congregational Church, and for the third year received from the children all the gifts on the Christmas tree for our children many of whom would have had no Christmas presents but for the generosity of these kindly children.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1938

	During 1951				Total as at 1st January 1952			
	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over		Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Particulars of cases reported during 1951								
(a) Cases reported by Local Education Authorities (Section 57, Education Act, 1944) :-								
(i) Under Section 57(3)	6	7	–	–	–	–	–	–
(ii) Under Section 57(5) :-								
On leaving special schools	1	–	7	–	–	–	–	–
On leaving ordinary schools	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
(b) Cases referred by the Police or by the Courts under Section 8 (1) (a) (or as a result of other action by the Courts)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
(c) Other defectives reported during 1951 :-								
(i) found "subject to be dealt with"	–	1	3	2	–	–	–	–
(ii) not at present "subject to be dealt with"	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total number of cases reported during the year	8	9	10	2	–	–	–	–

	During 1951				Total as at 1st January 1952			
	Under Age 16		Aged 16 and over		Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
2. Disposal of Cases								
(a) those found "subject to be dealt with"								
(i) placed under statutory supervision	7	8	7	1	23	25	52	76
(ii) placed under Guardianship	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–
(iii) taken to "Places of Safety"	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
(iv) Admitted to Institutions	1	–	3	–	11	15	111	131
(v) died or removed from area	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
(vi) action not yet taken	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
(b) those not at present "subject to be dealt with"								
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision	–	–	–	–	–	–	265	187
(ii) Later found not to be defective	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
(iii) Died or removed from area	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
(iv) Action unnecessary	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
(v) Action not yet taken	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total of item 2	8	9	10	2	34	40	430	396
3. Classification of defectives in the Community on 1. 1. 52.								
(a) Cases included in item 2(a) (i) to (iii) above in need of institutional care :-								
(1) In urgent need of institutional care :-								
(i) cot and chair cases	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
(ii) ambulant low grade cases	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
(iii) medium grade cases	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
(iv) high grade cases	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
(2) Not in urgent need of Institutional care :-								
(i) cot and chair cases	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
(ii) ambulant low grade cases	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–
(iii) medium grade cases	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
(iv) high grade cases	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total of item 3	–	–	–	–	2	–	1	–

	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
3. Classification of defectives in the Community on 1. 1. 52. (continued)				
(b) Of the cases included in item 3(a) overleaf, number in need of Institutional care only because of poor environment :-				
(i) medium grade cases	–	–	–	–
(ii) High grade cases	–	–	–	–
Total of item 3(b)	–	–	–	–
(c) Of the cases included in items 2(a) (i) and (ii) and 2(b) (i) overleaf, number considered suitable for :-				
(i) occupation centre	18	20	7	19
(ii) industrial centre	–	–	–	–
(iii) home training	1	–	–	–
Total of item 3(c)	19	20	7	19
(d) Number of cases receiving training on 1. 1. 52. :-				
(i) in occupation centre	13	14	7	18
(ii) in industrial centre	–	–	–	–
(iii) at home	1	–	–	–
Total of item 3(d)	14	14	7	18

4. Number of Mental Defectives who were in Institutions, under Community Care (including Voluntary Supervision) or in "Places of Safety" on 1st January, 1951, who have ceased to be under any of these forms of care during 1951.

	M.	F.	T.
(a) Ceased to be under care	–	–	–
(b) Died, removed from area, or lost sight of	5	11	16
TOTAL	5	11	16

5. Of the total number of mental defectives under Supervision or Guardianship or no longer under care.

	Males	Females
(a) Number who have given birth to children while unmarried during 1951 :-		2
(b) Number who have married during 1951	–	1

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

ON THE

Sanitary Administration of the Borough

for the year ended 31st December, 1951

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the County Borough of Walsall

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1951, giving particulars of the sanitary administration of the Borough.

The work involved in Sanitary Administration is well known to the members of the Health Committee but there are many who have little knowledge of the far reaching obligations which devolve upon the sanitation service ; housing, meat and food inspection, supervision of milk supplies, food hygiene, atmospheric pollution, general sanitation, indeed, almost every environmental condition affecting public well-being are the concern of the Department.

It will be seen from the report that some progress was made in dealing with insanitary property, although the general housing situation remains a matter of concern. Housing repairs are expensive and the cost curtails considerably the extent to which dwellings can be improved or persistent deterioration prevented.

Work at the abattoir increased because of the greater number of cattle and cows slaughtered and the amount of meat condemned shows a higher figure this year than that for 1950. The fact that Walsall is used as a slaughtering centre shows the important muni-

cipal standing of the town, serving as it does a population of approximately 250,000. The service given in respect of meat inspection to outlying local authority areas has been recognised to some extent by the Ministry of Food in that the authority may make financial claim for certain extraordinary duties carried out at the abattoir.

A considerable amount of the Inspector's time was taken up on food administration, which was given particular attention again this year. Food premises were improved and the policy of giving facilities for the education of food traders was continued. General health education and talks were also a part of the year's work, as it is felt that every means should be adopted to make people aware of the part they play in the general health programme.

The smoke abatement section of the report shows that considerable progress was made in this field of sanitary administration. The effect of extended industrial activity upon the environmental conditions of the community is ever apparent and when new industries are introduced into the town or existing manufactories are extended, the position is carefully examined so as to ensure that all practical means will be adopted to prevent nuisance. This is a very important point since once a manufactory has become established and to some extent the conditions arising from it condoned by the local authority in giving planning approval, it is very diffi cult adequately to deal with any unsatisfactory conditions. The experience of nuisance in the northern part of the town arising from fumes originating in an adjoining local authority district again underlines the need for concerted effort on the part of bodies of local authorities in combating the problem of atmospheric pollution. Within the town, it will be noted, many improvements were achieved, a considerable number of mechanical stokers being installed by firms to replace older installations which have in the past been a source of nuisance.

Mention was made in the report last year of the increase in the number of infestations due to woodboring beetle. The number of infestations has again gone up this year and this problem appears to be causing concern in many areas of the country.

PART 1.— STAFF

The year 1951 saw many changes in the staff of the Department but this was not entirely unexpected since the staff has been stable for something like two years.

Mr. F. G. S. Hill resigned his appointment as Housing Inspector to take up duties with the Winchester authority. Mr. K.H. Perry, a Sanitary Inspector in the Department, was appointed to fill the vacancy on 1st June 1951.

Because of the difficulties created by the gradual increase in slaughtering, the Committee decided to appoint a full-time Meat Inspector to assist Mr. Kelley. Mr. Fairless of Sunderland was appointed to the position and took up duties at the abattoir on 16th July, 1951.

In view of the implication of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, which came into operation on 31st March, 1950, a post of Rodent Control Officer was created, to be responsible for rodent control work and Mr. S. Monks, one of the Sanitary Inspectors in the Department, was appointed. Mr. S. Payne was appointed Disinfestation Officer and is responsible for clerical work, store-keeping and general duties in connection with rodent control and disinfestation.

At the end of the year Mr. J.F. Marshall accepted an appointment with the Alberta Health Authority and left the Corporation's service in December.

To fill the vacancies created by the re-appointment of Messrs. Perry and Monks and the resignation of Mr. Marshall, Mr. D. Hough of the Wolverhampton Health Department, Mr. G. Lowbridge of Willenhall and Mr. J. P. Barton of Hornchurch were appointed. Mr. G. Brownsword, Junior Clerk in the Department, qualified during the year as a Sanitary Inspector and has taken up an appointment with the Gosport Authority.

Miss M. B. Harper resigned at the end of March to get married and Miss D. K. Flynn was appointed to the vacancy. Miss Flynn took up her duties on 1st July.

The two vacancies in the authorised establishment of the Department were filled during the year, Mr. D. Bates being appointed to the post of Clerk and Miss Jean Bannister to that of Junior Female Clerk.

PART 2.—HOUSING

This section of the report embodies all housing work carried out under the Public Health Act and Housing Act.

Repairs to Houses.

Complaints received by the Department during the year numbered 2,804, and were in excess of those received during the previous year. While many of the complaints were in respect of matters other than housing, the figures give some indication of the continued deterioration amongst the older types of property.

Extensive repair work under the Housing Acts is handicapped by the low rentals obtaining with controlled houses and the extent of the repairs carried out is limited by the action which can be instituted under the Public Health Acts.

Large groups of properties are steadily approaching the stage where action of a more drastic kind will have to be undertaken than that envisaged by the abatement of nuisances caused by minor defects.

The total number of visits made to premises was 17,399. Action instituted under the Public Health Acts resulted in 766 houses receiving attention for principal repairs, and in 1,379 cases work in connection with water closets and ashbin accommodation, drainage repairs and the abatement of other nuisances was carried out; a total of 2,145 houses being improved during the year.

The Closing and Demolition of Unfit Houses

On the 31st December, 1950, there were 274 houses in respect of which Housing Orders were operative still in occupation. During the year the Health Committee made individual Demolition or Closing Orders in respect of a further 24 houses. 84 properties were closed during the year, prior to being demolished, and there remained a total of 219 officially condemned houses still in occupation on the 31st December, 1951.

All properties reported as unfit are visited and inspected by a Sub-Committee of the Health Committee.

There was a net reduction during the year of occupied officially condemned houses of 55, compared with 40 for the previous year.

The increased allocation of Council houses which was granted the previous year had some effect in bringing about this reduction. The figure of 219 occupied condemned houses at 31st December, 1951 has no relation however to the number of houses which are unfit for habitation in the Borough. It is only the limitation of new housing which prevents many hundreds of such properties being dealt with.

Reconditioning of Houses

Owing to the high cost of repairs in relation to the low rentals prevailing in the older types of properties, the operation of the "reasonable cost" clause in the Housing Act, 1936, renders it virtually impossible to carry out any scheme of extensive reconditioning to these types of properties.

Overcrowding

Towards the end of the year a survey of overcrowding conditions in tenanted houses was commenced on applicants whose names appeared on the Council's Housing List. The list contained over 2,000 names, and 390 families were chosen on the basis that they had either 100 points, or that they had an equivalent of 5½ adults or more living in the house. A report was submitted to the Housing Committee, revealing that there were 27 cases of statutory overcrowding, and it was resolved to rehouse these families as soon as possible.

Housing Act, 1949

Several informal applications were made under this Act, but only 4 were proceeded with as formal application for grants. One application was refused, and the other three were deferred for further consideration until the whole matter could be reviewed at the beginning of the next Municipal Year.

Common Lodging Houses

It is pleasing to report that the common lodging house in Green Lane, acquired in 1950 by the Corporation, has now been demolished.

The Green Lane Development Area

A further survey of this area was carried out with a view to ascertaining the probable life of the properties contained therein. A plan was prepared showing the number of houses subject to Housing Orders, and the number of areas which will be suitable for being dealt with as Clearance Areas.

Housing Statistics

A statement setting out the number of new houses provided, the position with regard to condemned properties, and progress under the Housing Acts is appended as follows :-

Provision of New Houses

During 1951, new houses were provided as follows :-

(a)	By the Walsall Corporation	614
(b)	By Private Persons :	
	Permanent Houses	48
	New Dwellings from conversions of existing properties	7
	Total	669

Progress in the Clearance of Unfit Properties

No. of condemned houses occupied at 1st January 1951	274
No. of houses for which Demolition Orders or Closing Orders were made or Undertakings accepted during 1951	24
No. of condemned houses closed during 1951	84
No. of condemned houses demolished during 1951	55
No. of condemned houses still occupied at 31st December, 1951	219

Progress under the Housing Acts, 1930 and 1936 to 31st December, 1951. ....

Houses represented as unfit	3,146
Houses closed	2,783
No. of persons displaced	12,122

THE CENSUS 1951

At the time the final draft of this report was being completed, a statement on the 1951 Census was issued by the Registrar General containing what is known as 1% Sample Tables. These reveal some very interesting statistics as far as Walsall is concerned and they are set out herewith. There has not been time to extract comparative information and detailed information with regard to many matters affecting dwelling houses are not yet available. It is hoped that this will be published in time to submit a fuller report at a later stage.

Population	114,514
No. of households	32,000
No. of households in shared dwellings	2,300
No. of rooms occupied by households	140,300
Households of successive densities of occupation (persons per room) - 3 and over 2	600
2 and over $1\frac{1}{2}$	1,500
$1\frac{1}{2}$ and over 1	3,500
1 or less	26,400

There are some interesting comparisons between the position in 1931 and 1951, namely :-

	1951	1931
No. of persons per household	3.58	4.05
No. of persons per room	0.82	0.91
Percentage of persons living more than 2 per room	5.06	8.79

The census also reveals that the following number of households are without the exclusive use of -

Water closet	3,100
Fixed bath	14,800
Both stove and sink	2,700

Part 3—FOOD

Food administration forms a considerable and important part of Sanitary Inspectors' duties. Particular emphasis was laid again this year on this branch of the service and our efforts were continued towards improving the meat inspection service and the conditions under which food is prepared, handled, and distributed. An efficient food administration service has an important bearing upon the well-being of the community. Much still remains to be done, but it is felt that considerable progress was made in all aspects of these duties during the year. Details of the work done and improvements achieved have been dealt with in a similar manner to last year, the subject being dealt with under the following headings :-

(a) Inspection of Meat
(b) Unwholesome Food Condemned
(c) Milk
(d) Ice Cream
(e) Food Hygiene
(f) Sampling - Food and Drugs Act, 1938

(a) INSPECTION OF MEAT

The slaughtering of animals at the Ministry of Food controlled slaughterhouse in Shortacre Street continued during 1951.

Although the total number of carcases examined is slightly less this year than in 1950, the total being 54,404 during the current year and 56,348 in 1950, the number of cows and other cattle slaughtered was considerably higher. The increasing amount of beef slaughtered in the home market is reflected by the quantity of fresh meat being made available to the public and is a result of the policy of encouraging beef production over the last few years.

It is a welcome sign that the amount of pork examined is more than double the quantity examined in 1950.

The number of calves inspected this year is slightly higher than was the case in 1950 but the figure for sheep and lambs is over 5,000 less than in 1950.

It is the inspection of cattle and cows which forms the greater part of the Meat Inspector's duties and the considerable increase in the slaughtering of cattle and cows resulted in increased hours of attendance by Meat Inspector's at the abattoir. The inspection service is maintained during the whole time that slaughtering is in progress, so that it is necessary for the meat inspection staff to attend at the abattoir for periods of time in excess of that put in by slaughtermen in order to maintain the high standard of meat inspection that is Walsall's reputation.

Meat inspection duties were carried out by Mr. A. D. Kelley and Mr. J. Fairless, who are occupied full time on this work and they were assisted as and when necessary by other Sanitary Inspectors of the Department who are qualified as Meat and Other Foods Inspectors.

The amount of diseased meat and offals condemned shows a record figure of over 271 tons 10 cwts. compared with the figure last year of 219 tons 18 cwts.

TABLE 1

Year	Percentage of animals affected with disease					
	All diseases except Tuberculosis			Tuberculosis		
	Cattle except cows	Cows	Calves	Cattle except cows	Cows	Calves
1940	31.70	44.40	1.00	12.50	47.40	.50
1941	20.67	30.33	.75	15.36	54.40	.81
1942	19.20	40.04	.79	14.05	45.95	.60
1943	19.94	42.39	.58	15.07	48.56	.44
1944	17.89	39.20	.45	13.81	49.84	.38
1945	38.05	53.39	.96	14.55	50.40	.58
1946	46.83	68.15	.68	17.47	48.70	.62
1947	53.68	72.67	1.75	17.51	53.75	.68
1948	58.93	91.61	3.40	14.96	55.19	.54
1949	49.91	96.72	3.39	13.51	58.24	.42
1950	37.18	88.46	2.49	10.60	55.48	.31
1951	47.44	90.78	2.06	9.74	48.25	.16

There was a marked rise in the incidence of diseases other than tuberculosis, but it is pleasing to note that there was again a decrease in the incidence of animals affected with tuberculosis.

The incidence of Johne's disease, with complications of oedema, anaemia or emaciation, is very striking this year, some 85 carcases being condemned for these causes compared with 19 in 1950. The number of whole cow carcases condemned for tuberculosis infection is also very high compared with last year, the figures being 236 and 166 respectively. Cysticercus Bovis infestation was also more prevalent, 197 carcases being affected compared with 114 last year

Calves affected with Congenital Tuberculosis.

It is reported that 13 calf carcases were condemned during the year under review, being affected with congenital tuberculosis. This figure shows a reduction of 10 over the figure for last year. It was only possible to ascertain details of the owners in 4 cases; the information was forwarded to the appropriate department in the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and in 2 cases reports were received to the effect that the dams concerned were not infected, so that it was not necessary to take action under the Tuberculosis Order.

The procedure of reporting to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries details of calves found to be suffering from congenital tuberculosis is an important function in meat inspection, since it assists veterinary officers in removing infected dams and sires which may be a potential continued source of tuberculosis in dairy-herds.

Cysticercus Bovis

There has been a steady increase in the last few years in the number of animals found to be infested with cysticercus bovis. During the year under review 197 carcases were found to be infested, compared with 114 in 1950. The following table shows in detail the number of cases, together with the location of infested parts. Cysticercus bovis is the cystic stage of a tapeworm which is transmissible to man. Special recommendations are laid down by the Ministry of Food as to the manner in which infested carcases shall be treated. All affected offals were condemned and after careful examination of carcase muscles the carcases were refrigerated for the recommended period of 21 days so as to ensure that all meat was fit for human consumption before being released.

TABLE 11
CYSTICERCUS BOVIS, 1951

Animals	Masseter muscle of head	Tongue	Hearts		Skirts	Carcase Muscle	
			Muscle	Surface		Local	Generalised
Bullocks	31	3	12	8	3	–	–
Heifers	62	12	17	31	1	6	2
Cows	33	6	11	15	1	3	–
Bulls	1	2	–	1	–	–	–
Totals	127	23	40	55	5	9	2

Total number of carcases infested with Cysticercus Bovis, 197.

It is the practice to distribute the meat to manufacturers of meat products in accordance with the Ministry of Food instructions DMW/1/478.

Until the later war years, cysticercus bovis was almost unknown in this country. The increase is attributed to the introduction into British agriculture of persons from other countries in which the infestation is prevalent. Details of all cases of cysticercus bovis are notified to the Ministry of Food, who carry out investigations at the places where the animals are reared.

Casualty Animals

In addition to the animals entering the abattoir through the Ministry's collecting centres, a number of animals are sent in for emergency slaughter, usually because of injury. In some instances the animals have already been slaughtered before being sent to the abattoir. Whilst it is desirable in all cases that casualty animals should be accompanied by a veterinary certificate shewing reasons why the animal has either been slaughtered or sent in for slaughter, this is far from being the rule; it is a matter, however, which should receive the attention of the Ministry concerned. The following table sets out the position with regard to casualty animals :-

Slaughtered at Abattoir.

Cattle, 8; Sheep, 4; Pigs, 111; Calves, – Total 123

Slaughtered on Emergency Premises and Arriving Dressed at Abattoir.

Cattle, – Sheep, 2; Pigs, 56; Calves – Total 56

Total casualties for the year were 179 of which 49 carcases, 34 part carcases and 204 organs were condemned on inspection by the Meat Inspectors.

Bone Taint

During the year under review some 401 lbs. of meat was condemned because of bone taint and decomposition. This figure compares very favourably with the figure of 1294 lbs. recorded for 1950, the improvement being due partly to the greater care shewn in the handling and cooling of meat and to the lower temperatures prevailing during the summer of 1951.

Dressed carcases received at Abattoir for allocation.

During the year 598 sides of beef, 21 calves, 658 sheep, 739 pigs and 1,176 pigs' heads were received at the abattoir in a dressed condition and were inspected before re-distribution. Of this meat 1,107 lbs. was affected with tuberculosis and 3,402 lbs. was condemned because of the presence of other diseases, a total of 4,509 lbs.

Meat condemned affected with Bruising

It is necessary again this year to call particular attention to the large quantities of carcase meat condemned by the Meat Inspector because of bruising. This condition is due to damage to the animals during transit or while in lairages awaiting slaughter. The figure of 8,855 lbs. which was the amount condemned during 1951, is rather alarming, when it is known that much can be done to avoid this loss of meat and also the suffering of the aminals concerned. Representations have been made to the persons responsible and a number of improvements have been introduced in the lairages at the slaughterhouse. However, it would appear that much greater care is necessary in the handling and transport of animals from the market to the slaughterhouse and also while animals are being held immediately prior to slaughter.

Transport of Meat

Although all regular vehicles engaged on meat transport are suitably constructed and equipped with hanging rails, it was found necessary to call attention to the unsatisfactory condition of vehicles which had been introduced for temporary periods.

The conditions under which meat is distributed to retail shops received attention during the year and one or two isolated complaints were investigated in this connection. Complaints concerning meat distribution, or, indeed, with regard to any aspect of our work, are welcome and if they can be made promptly they will be of considerable help in securing improved conditions in the handling and distribution of food. Meat handlers appear to be more conscious of their responsibilities in the hygienic handling of food, as capes and hoods appear to be quite regularly used.

Meat and Food Inspection Statistics

The following table sets out the number of carcases inspected, together with particulars of carcase or parts thereof condemned and is in the form required by the Ministry :-

TABLE III.

1951

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed & inspected	8,542	5,272	7,880	30,014	2,696
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS:-					
Whole carcases condemned	7	130	118	70	39
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4,053	4,785	163	8,415	350
Percentage of the number inspected affected with all diseases except tuberculosis	47.44%	90.78%	2.06%	28.04%	12.98%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcases condemned	18	236	13	Nil	15
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	832	2,544	Nil	Nil	242
Percentage of the number inspected affected with all diseases except tuberculosis	9.74%	48.25%	.16%	Nil	8.97%

(Total number of carcases examined .... 54,404)

TABLE IV.

Diseased Meat and Offals

During the year the following quantities of meat and offals were found to be diseased, unsound and unfit for human consumption :-

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qr.	Lbs.
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.				
Carcase Meat	51	8	0	6½
Offals	84	11	2	18½
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.				
Carcase Meat	86	9	2	24
Offals	49	1	1	23
TOTAL	271	10	3	16

It has been the practice in recent years to include in the report tables shewing the analysis of condemnations but, while the tables have been prepared and are available in the office, they have been excluded from this report on the grounds of economy.

Conditions at the Abattoir

Towards the end of the year the attention of the Health Committee was drawn to certain unsatisfactory conditions at the abattoir and an inspection of the abattoir while slaughtering was in progress was made by the Committee. A special report was submitted to the Health Committee and the Council and discussions are proceeding with the Ministry of Food with regard to these unsatisfactory conditions and other matters relating to the slaughtering of animals in Walsall.

(b) UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED

The following Table gives details of the nature and weight of foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption during the year 1951. Although there were a number of instances where unsound food was seized and taken before a Justice of the Peace for condemnation, the bulk of the foodstuffs were surrendered to the Sanitary Inspectors at the time of inspection.

	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs
Meat and Offal (at Government controlled slaughterhouse)	271	10	3	16
Tinned and other packed foods	11	16	3	14
Margarine	–	1	1	27
Cheese	–	–	–	15
Sausages	–	2	4	22
Irish Chickens	–	5	3	–
Rice	–	7	1	–
Mincemeat	–	6	–	–
Ice Cream	–	1	1	7
Coffee	–	1	1	3
Sweets	–	–	2	7
Vinegar	–	–	2	24
Pepper	–	–	–	7
Mustard	–	–	–	9
Sugar	–	7	1	13
Semolina	–	1	–	14
Self Raising Flour	–	–	2	7
Cereal Flakes....	–	–	1	26
Custard Powder	–	–	–	20
Sausage Rusk	–	–	–	6¾
Total	285	5	1	13¾

Every effort was made to salvage for purposes other than human consumption the food condemned as unfit, subject to satisfactory safeguards as to the method of disposal.

(c) MILK

The Milk Supply in Walsall

In keeping with the remainder of the country, there was an increase in the quantity of milk passing through Walsall dairies during the year. The total for 1951 was approximately 7,332,500 gallons, compared with 5,568,000 gallons in 1950. The following table shows the quantities and various classes of milk of which it was comprised :-

Classification	Estimated gallons per annum	%
T.T.	55,400	0.76
Accredited	35,300	0.48
T.T. (Pasteurised)	335,600	4.57
Pasteurised	2,757,000	37.60
Sterilised	4,144,000	56.52
Raw	5,200	0.07
Total	7,332,500	100.00

Apart from the fact that registration with individual dealers was still necessary, milk rationing ended during the year. Some of the surplus milk available was distributed to ice cream manufacturers and, for a short period, a certain quantity of cream was manufactured and distributed.

There was an increase in the amount of Tuberculin Tested milk produced and it is pleasing to note that a larger proportion was pasteurised before sale. The figure for ordinary pasteurised milk is substantially higher than last year, as was the case with sterilised milk.

Of the raw milk, Accredited showed a slight increase over last year, but proportionately there appears to be a decline in the production of this designation. The reduction is understandable since this designation will no longer be recognised under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations in 1954.

As mentioned last year, the sale of ordinary raw milk is declining, only 0.07% of the milk sold for consumption in Walsall during the year being in this category, compared with .18% in 1950. In view of the figures relating to Accredited milk and ordinary raw milk, it is not unlikely that Walsall will be included in a designated area which may be declared in the near future.

Dairy Premises

It is pleasing to be able to report that the new dairies which have been under construction in Walsall for the last three years are now completed and in operation. The last of these establishments was inspected and licensed by the local authority during the year and the old premises vacated by the firm are now no longer used as a dairy. The processes used are the same as in the old premises but new plant has been provided. The dairy position in the town, therefore, is now reasonably satisfactory and it will be possible, if and when it is necessary to do so, to achieve a 100% supply of designated milks to the public.

Milk Processing

The number of milk processing plants in the Borough was increased by one during the year, an additional pasteurisation plant being installed in the new dairy which was opened last year, a measure provided for when the premises were designed. The plant was inspected and licensed by the local authority and will be processing milk which was hitherto bottled on the premises but pasteurised elsewhere. The milk regulations provide for the ultimate prohibition of the practice of pasteurising milk in one es-etablishment and bottling in another.

There are now four pasteurisation and four sterilisation plants in the town. Both H.T.S.T. and the Holder methods of pasteurisation are practised. The supervision of milk processing by the Department continued during the year, premises were inspected and plant and instruments checked as a routine duty. A new bottling and capping unit was approved, together with many other minor improvements.

All establishments comply with the various statutes concerning milk processing premises.

Delivery Vehicles

Following discussions with the trade last year with regard to the measures which might be considered reasonable for meeting the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, in respect of the protection of milk against various sources of contamination, the recommendations made are now being put into effect by traders. Considerable progress has been made in the initial step of providing roof covering for milk delivery vehicles.

Sampling - Milk (Special Designation) Regulations

The results of samples submitted for examination under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are shown in Table 1. Some 504 samples of the various designated milks sold in the Borough

were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for examination during 1951, compared with 351 in 1950. The results received are slightly inferior this year compared with 1950 in respect of the methylene blue test, which is the only test required by the regulations with regard to keeping quality. Of the 26 unsatisfactory samples under the methylene blue test, 19 were derived from milk produced and processed outside the Borough.

The keeping quality of the milk as delivered to the consumer will depend upon the care in production, processing and handling in course of its journey from the cow to the consumer. The care of milk is the responsibility of Health Departments only after it has left the farm but it is known that the conditions under which the milk is produced in the farm has a very great bearing upon the quality of the milk. In the case of raw undesignated milks, tuberculin tested and accredited, unsatisfactory samples are reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who are responsible for the licensing of producers, so that investigations can be made at the farm.

All unsatisfactory samples were investigated from the point of view of distribution and where milk was processed locally the premises concerned were inspected and records and methods of processing, bottling and distribution were investigated. Where the milk was processed outside the Borough, the responsible authorities were notified.

One of the difficulties which arose out of these investigations was the fact that in one or two instances where samples were accepted and reported unsatisfactory by the laboratory, it was found that samples of the same milk taken in another local authority area were declared void when submitted to their own particular labora tory because of an unsatisfactory "atmospheric shade temperature". The two laboratories concerned adopted different methods of milk storage prior to examination and the question arose as to what was the proper method of storing the milk prior to examination. This is an important question since a sample of milk may be accepted as valid in one laboratory and the same milk, produced under the same conditions, rejected as void in the other.

Mention was made of difficulties concerning this question of atmospheric shade temperature in the Report for 1950 and the fact that it does seem unsatisfactory that under certain conditions, which may not be altogether unusual, the milk supply to the public may be exempt from any statutory test.

The results of the phosphatase test on milk samples compared very favourably with the results in 1950. There were two failures out of a total of 272 samples submitted, compared with two failures

from a total of 159 last year. Both these unsatisfactory samples related to milk processed outside the Borough ; the responsible authorities were notified and follow-up samples taken proved satisfactory.

Biological Tests

A total of 76 samples were submitted during the year under review for biological examination. Two samples were reported as showing evidence of infection by tubercle bacilli and six were infected with brucella abortus. In all these cases formal notices were served under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1942, requiring that the milk from the herds concerned should be heat treated. The notices were withdrawn when subsequent samples proved that the herds were free from infection. When infected samples are reported by the laboratory, the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are notified, so that an investigation may be made on the farm. The herds are examined and infected animals are isolated. In the case of animals giving tuberculous milk, action is taken under the Tuberculosis Order.

Synthetic Cream

Mention was made in the last report of the extension in the sales of synthetic cream and the prepacking of this commodity in dairies, which constitutes a contravention against the regulations. The sale of this commodity has now been regularised, the dairies now selling synthetic cream receiving it in a prepacked condition.

Milk Bottles

Discussions took place during the year with the dairy firms on the question of bottle caps. In order adequately to protect the milk from contamination by rainwater, dust, etc, it is necessary that milk bottles should be fitted with the all-over type of metal cap. The dairies are giving their attention to this matter and as milk bottles are replaced a new type of bottle is substituted, which will enable a suitable cap to be used. Much progress was made with replacements during the year.

Another complaint was received during the year under review concerning glass being found in a milk bottle. The matter was investigated and since that time new machinery has been installed at the dairy concerned.

Licensing

The number of licences issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 and the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 was as follows :-

TABLE V.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS 1949

RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK, 1951

Grade of Milk	Summary of Results			Details of Tests									
				Methylene Blue		Phosphatase		Turbidity		Biological			
										Tubercle B.		Br. Abortus	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Total	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.	Negative	Positive	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.
T. T.	35	5	40	35	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Accredited (Bottled) ...	12	1	13	12	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
T. T. (Pasteurised)	108	13	121	109	12	119	2*	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pasteurised	143	8	151	143	8	151	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
T. T. (Sterilised)	12	–	12	–	–	–	–	12	–	–	–	–	–
Sterilised	167	–	167	–	–	–	–	167	–	–		–	–
Accredited (Bulk)	22	5	27	–	–	–	–	–	–	27	–	22	5
Undesignated	46	3	49	–	–	–	–	–	–	47	2	48	1
Totals	545	35	580	299	26	270	2	179	–	74	2	70	6

* 1 sample failed both Methylene Blue and Phospha tase Tests

PLANT LICENCES

For Milk Pasteurisation	4
For Milk Sterilisation	4

DEALERS LICENCES

For the sale of Pasteurised milk	102
For the sale of Sterilised milk	321
For the sale of Tuberculin tested milk	42
For the sale of Accredited milk	1

(d) ICE CREAM

The Ice Cream Trade

The output of manufacturers in the town has been increased during the year by improved methods and the ability to supply now exceeds the demand by the public. It would appear that we have now reached the stage when economics have begun to show their effect. The essential materials, sugar, fats and milk solids, are still in short supply and are a source of concern to traders, who have to make use of the limited and expensive unrationed materials which are available from time to time in order to maintain the standard laid down.

An interesting trend in the industry is that choc-ice production the processing of which has been greatly assisted recently by improved methods of production, is now becoming a winter trade.

Traders have taken advantage of the improved supply position with regard to machinery and the availability of stainless steel has resulted in a better standard of processing equipment. A new establishment for cold mix manufacture was approved during the year, the number of manufacturers now being :-

Pasteurised Mix	9
Cold Mix	9

The number of premises registered for the sale and storage of ice cream have increased to 273.

Standards

An important development during 1951 was the introduction of The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order 1951, which lays down, for the first time in this country, a legal food standard for ice cream. The standard, briefly, is as follows :-

Ice cream shall contain not less than 5% fat, 10% sugar and 7½% milk solids other than fat. Certain adjustments are made in the standard for ice cream containing fruit, fruit pulp, etc. and also for "Parev" (Kosher) ice cream.

From the public health point of view it was most desirable that a standard should be introduced for this commodity. In the early years following the war the public demand far exceeded supply, so that with an absence of legal standards, the food value of ice cream was most variable. Reputable traders were doing their best to produce a good article, while others followed an unrestricted practice of producing quantity rather than quality. In the last two years competition in the trade brought a considerable improvement in the position, and it will be remembered that comment was made in the last report that, in view of the standards being obtained by the majority of traders, the time was opportune for the introduction of a food standard. The Order relating to standards took effect from 1st March 1951.

Some 67 samples of ice cream were procured during the year and submitted to the Public analyst for analysis. The average of the results obtained is given below, the legal requirements being shown in brackets:

Fat	Milk Solid other than Fat	Sugar
8.36%	10.58%	12.33%
(5%)	(7½%)	(10%)

When these standards were first introduced, some apprehension was expressed by certain types of manufacturer that in applying the standard no regard would be had to the amount of "over-run" contained in the ice cream. This is an important factor when it is realised that "over-run" may be higher than 100% of the ice cream mix. It is achieved by introducing air into the mix during freezing and has the effect of increasing the bulk and, it is claimed, improving the palatableness of the commodity. However, since ice cream is sold on a fluid capacity rather than by weight it would appear that the standard could react unfairly upon manufacturers of ice cream showing a low percentage of "over-run". The matter has been raised by the trade but allowance for "over-run" is undoubtedly a difficult problem.

It is interesting to note that additional continous horizontal freezers (which are capable of obtaining high "over-run") were introduced during the year.

In making the standards for ice cream, the Ministry of Food found it necessary to allow increased allocations of essential

materials to traders and it is appreciated generally that before the standard can be raised still further, there will have to be an improvement in the food supply position. There was again, during the year, a small allocation of surplus liquid milk to the ice cream trade, but the quantities were very small and restricted to the few weeks of peak milk production.

Ice Cream Samples

172 samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year under review. The results shown in Table VI. are approximately of the same standard as last year, both as regards ice cream produced locally and that coming into the town from outside districts.

As was the case last year, the results of samples of cold mix ice cream are of a better standard than those for the pasteurised mix. The pasteurised mix is much more complex than the cold mix method and requires careful control over the processes involved ; a high standard of plant hygiene is also necessary.

One of the suspected sources of unsatisfactory samples of pasteurised mix is the presence in processing plant of certain types of heat resisting organisms of a non-pathogenic nature. In investigating unsatisfactory samples it was found in a number of instances that it was the practice for unused ice cream to be re-processed. Unless particular care is observed with this practice, there is the danger that an unduly high proportion of heat resisting organisms may be present in the mix, with the result that although there may be no danger to public health arising fron the consumption of ice cream, it is possible that unsatisfactory grading may result. The manufacturers concerned with this practice were advised to reduce re-processing as much as possible and to ensure adequate heat treatment of the ice cream mix. A thorough sterilisation of all parts of the plant at the end of each day's operation was also recommended.

It should be pointed out that the provisional methylene blue grading scheme which is applied to ice cream is still regarded as in the nature of an experiment. It has no significance legally but forms a very useful guide as to the conditions under which ice cream is produced. The recommending Committee are aware of its limitations and recommend that judgment should not be formed on individual samples but rather over fairly long periods of time. The circumstances and conditions of production of all samples falling within the provisional Grades 3 and 4 were investigated and considerable time was spent on this work, which included, in many cases, complete supervision of all stages of production in the establishments concerned, together with instruction and advice on steam and chemical sterilisation.

Ice Lollies

What is considered to be a deficiency in food legislation is the absence of a requirement for the registration of premises where ice lollies are manufactured and sold. At present, traders dealing with these confections are not obliged to notify the local authority of such a trade, with the result that ice lollie manufacture is often introduced as an ancillary to various types of retail business and in some cases it is only when the premises receive a routine visit that the Department becomes aware of this new activity. Particular attention was paid during the year to this aspect of food manufacture.

Ice Cream Vehicles

Ice cream vehicles operating in the town were regularly inspected during the year and a high standard was maintained by traders. Vehicles operating in the town from outside districts were given attention and those inspected were found to be satisfactory. The need for the registration of all vehicles concerned with the retail sale of food is again stressed, as only by this means will it be possible to exercise any degree of supervision.

Inspection of Plant and Premises

Regular and frequent inspections were made throughout the year of all ice cream establishments. Plant and processing was supervised from time to time and instruments were checked to ensure that the regulations relating to ice cream manufacture were being observed.

Advice was given in a number of instances, although a high standard of operation was maintained in all cases. Careful attention was given to the inspection of foodstuffs in these premises and also to the manner in which it was stored and handled.

TABLE VI.

RESULTS OF ICE CREAM SAMPLES

Local Manufacture (95 Samples)

Grading	1	2	3	4
Heat Treatment	28	21	4	17
Cold Mix	18	4	3	–
Totals	46	25	7	17

Manufactured outside Walsall and sold locally (77 Samples)

Grading	1	2	3	4
Heat Treatment	41	11	6	4
Cold Mix	6	—	5	4
Totals	47	11	11	8

Note on the Test applied

The provisional test for ice cream which has been operating experimentally for the last few years is the methylene blue reduction test. The provisional gradings are as follows :-

Provisional Grading	Time taken to reduce methylene blue
1	4 hours or more
2	2½– 4 hours
3	½ – 2 hours
4	0 hours (i.e. reduction at the end of incubation period).

Grades 1 and 2 are considered satisfactory and grades 3 and 4 unsatisfactory.

The standard suggested for manufacturers is that over a period of six months 50 per cent. of the samples should fall in grade 1, 80 per cent. in grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent. in grade 3 and none in grade 4.

It has been emphasised to health authorities that judgment should not be made on individual samples, but rather that results over a period of six months should be examined before assessing the hygienic quality of a particular product. The need for reserved judgment is also stressed in view of the experimental nature of the methylene blue test.

(e) FOOD HYGIENE

The efforts of the Department for improved conditions in the handling, storage and distribution of food continued in the year under review. The public are also showing their concern in this matter and their interest is reflected in the number of complaints now being made to the Department with regard to contaminated food and unsatisfactory handling of foodstuffs. The action of the individuals concerned in calling the attention of the Department

to such conditions is to be commended, since by this means the importance of hygienic practice in food establishments can be effectively impressed on certain types of traders.

Firms now realise the implication of complaints of this kind, bringing as they do the possibility of legal proceedings and at the same time causing injury to the firm's reputation. Although it is found that the regular inspection of premises is invaluable when carried out as a routine duty, visits by Inspectors to food premises are all the more effective when supplemented by complaints and factual instances of food contamination. Indeed, it can be said that the complaints bring to light conditions and unhygienic practices which are not often found by routine inspection. Regular visits paid by Inspectors cannot, for obvious reasons, be made more frequently than say once every 3 months and complaints made on unsatisfactory conditions, etc., are welcomed and are of service to the department and benefit to the public.

Progress was made in the whole field of food hygiene education and the inspection and improvement of food establishments. During the year the Health Committee decided to sponsor a Clean Food Exhibition and detailed reference is made to this later in the Report.

It will appear that the initial progress made with Food Trade Guilds in various parts of the country has not been maintained and at least one Authority has now discontinued its scheme because of lack of support. The aims and objects of the Guilds are ideal but it is suggested that until there are more effective means of applying the standards agreed by the Working Committees it will become increasingly difficult to extend the schemes to traders or establishments with the greatest need for improvement. It is more often the case that the firms who least need guidance in food hygiene are ready to co-operate, whilst the unsatisfactory establishment withholds its support.

Education

Reference was made in the Report for 1950 to the successful courses of instruction which were run for the Dairy and Ice Cream trades and for other food trades. These courses were arranged as part of the further education activities fostered by the Technical College Authorities. Following these lectures, a day time course on food hygiene was arranged in the early part of this year. This course of instruction was organised at the request of one of the larger retail firms in the town, who allowed their employees time off during working hours to attend the classes and also undertook to pay the necessary fees. The employees of two other firms also attended and the students were most appreciative of the information and help they received. An examination was held at the end of the course, the results of which were quite satifactory.

Our experience in the organisation and running of food hygiene courses emphasises a very great need for more active co-operation on the part of employers, as it has been found that enrolment and attendance of students is far more satisfactory when a contribution is made by the firm in giving time off to attend for instruction. It is unfortunate, but apparently a symptom of the times, that employees today do not appear to have sufficient interest in their job to attend courses of instruction in their own time and at their own expense. The need for these courses becomes more and more patent as complaints are received by the Department with regard to contaminated foodstuffs, infested premises and unhygienic handling of food and it would seem to be a matter of sufficient concern to employers as to warrant their consideration for day time courses.

Numerous lectures were given during the year at Health Centres and to many organisations in the town. In addition, Sanitary Inspectors use every opportunity to call the attention of traders to the way in which conditions could be improved.

Model Byelaws

Last year, it will be remembered, reference was made to the improvements which are necessary before it will be possible to adopt the Model Byelaws. The greatest difficulty in assuming a reasonable basic standard for the Model Byelaws is undoubtedly the open air market. Discussions took place with the Property Committee as to the practical steps necessary to bring about an improvement in the handling of food on the market and the scheme ultimately suggested included the preparation of a special site in close proximity to the High Street, on which the food section of the market could be adequately accommodated. It is hoped that every food stall will ultimately have available, supplies of hot and cold water for general cleansing and personal ablution purposes, and that the site itself will be so constructed as to give adequate drainage, and minimise the possibility of contamination. Adequate refuse disposal arrangements are also envisaged. Designs of food stalls, prepared by leading shop fitting firms, have been considered, but up to the end of the year no final scheme had been approved. It is hoped that progress in this connection will be made in the near future.

The responsible Committees fully appreciate the need for an example being set by the Corporation in the matter of food hygiene and reports in respect of various Corporation properties are in course of preparation.

Inspection of Food Premises

The regular inspection of food establishments forms a considerable part of the Sanitary Inspector's duties. It will be noted from Table VII. that many improvements were effected in these

premises and, on the whole, traders were most co-operative in providing essential amenities and the remedying of unsatisfactory structural conditions.

Satisfactory food premises mean much more than a suitable structure with the provision of hot and cold water. It is found that many of the food poisoning outbreaks are due very often to the conditions under which the food is prepared and stored. The prevention of contamination is the primary consideration and in this respect food should be stored in a manner which excludes contamination as far as practicable. Furthermore, it should be stored at such temperatures as are unfavourable to the growth of pathogenic organisms. In establishments concerned with the so-called 'dangerous foodstuffs' special recommendations were made to traders in regard to these matters and as a result of these recommendations a number of food establishments were re-equipped or re-designed. It is found that food traders today welcome advice from the Department.

With regard to the two meat manufacturing premises mentioned in the Report for 1950, one is now completed and the other is approaching completion. In the latter case the main storage and preparation sections of the premises are finished and it remains now for the Licensing Authorities to grant permission for the fulfilment of the long-term plan for this large food processing concern.

The other firm referred to in the last Report has now moved from its old site to new modern premises.

New Food Establishments

Catering activity in the town still continues to increase, all types of premises being involved. It is important, when the trade of an establishment is extended to include catering, that the conditions should first be investigated to see that they are satisfactory for that purpose. At present, no obligation is placed upon an owner or occupier to notify the Department of such change and it is often found on investigation that many of these premises are not suitable for adaptation for this kind of trade, even though a catering licence may have been granted. Applications for catering licences have to be made to the Food Executive Officer and when a licence is issued, the existence of the Food & Drugs Act is made known to the applicant and he is further advised by the Food Executive Officer to contact this Department, so that he may be made aware of his obligations under the Act.

The working parties who have recently investigated standards and conditions in the catering trade and the meat manufacturing trade have issued their reports and valuable observations have been made on these branches of the food industry. It is hoped that many of the recommendations contained in their reports will be adopted as a basis for legislation in the near future.

The excellent liaison between the Health Department and the Food Executive Officer continued during the year. Some 28 cases were reported to the Health Department for information ; 15 of these cases were found on investigation to be satisfactory from the Health Department's point of view. In other cases advice was given as to improvements which were necessary. It is interesting to note that licences were granted in respect of two mobile canteens, both of which were satisfactory in construction and with regard to the provision of amenities.

A detailed inspection of all licensed houses in the town was commenced during the year. A comprehensive report is being prepared and will be presented to the Council in due course.

Infringement of the Food and Drugs Act

A number of infringements of the Food and Drugs Act were reported to the Committee during the year, which involved unsatisfactory premises and unsound and contaminated foodstuffs. Unsound chitterlings were concerned with one complaint and investigation traced the supply to a consignment of chitterlings which had been imported from the continent; this matter was taken up with the Ministry of Food and the Importing and Exporting firms

TABLE VII.

Details of Improvements to Food Premises

	Butchers	Ice Cream	Fish Fryers	Others	Total
No. of premises improved	5	25	3	21	54
Structural repairs	4	1	3	10	18
Ventilation provided or improved	–	–	2	2	4
Suitable food storage facili- provided	3	1	2	7	13
Hot water supplies installed	1	17	4	11	33
Wash basins provided	1	9	3	6	12
Sinks provided	1	2	3	6	12
Miscellaneous improvements	3	5	3	10	21
Total improvements	18	60	23	72	173

(f) SAMPLING - FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Mr. F. D. G. Chalmers, M.A., B.Sc., F.R.I.C., (of the firm of Messrs. Bostock, Hill and Rigby, Birmimghan), held the appointment of Public Analyst, and samples under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were submitted to him.

Of the 301 samples submitted under the Food and Drugs Act, 88 were formal and 213 informal ; of these, 8 (equivalent to 2.65%) were adulterated. 104 of the samples were milk, and these were all satisfactory.

Detailed list of samples

Milks 104, Ice Cream 66, Candied Peel 12, Ground Almonds 8, Jelly 5, Glace Cherries 9, Mincemeat 5, Christmas Pudding 5, Mixed Spice 4, Butter 4, Margarine 4, Cooking Fat 4, Honey 3, Pepper 3, Gravy Browning 2, Ground Nutmeg 2, Cheese Spread 2, Lemon Curd 2, Vinegar 4, and 1 each of the following : Milk Pudding Powder, Junket Powder, Tomato Piquant, Lemon Barley Crystals, Shortbread Mixture, Shrimps, Ground Cinnamon, Tomato Ketchup, Essence of Rennet, Olive Oil, Mustard Sauce, Icing, Lemon and Orange Peel, Fruit Shape, Bicarbonate of Soda, Cake Flour, Halibut Oil Capsules, Dried Fruit Mixture, Suet Mixture, Semolina, Essence of Coffee and Chicory, Gelatine, Cockles, Canned Ham, Cherries in light syrup, Sunny Spread, Sandwich Spread, Sardines and Tomato Spread, Puff Pastry, Golden Breadcrumbs, Dressed Salmon, Golden Raising Powder, Vegetable Salad with Mayonnaise, Ground Ginger, Juices of real lemons, Raspberry Flavouring, Meat Tenderiser, Emulsified Orange Flavour, Cooked Mussels, Pickling Spice, Pepper-flavoured Compound, Concentrated Tomato Soup, Vegetable Soup, Fruit Salad, Dutch White Fondant, Custard Powder, Apricots in Syrup, Salad Cream, Tomato Sauce, Baked Beans, Table Jelly Crystals.

Details of Adulterated Samples. (all of which were informal)

Sample No.	25,	Ice Cream	–	Deficient in milk solids not fat 17.3%
,,	,,	26,	,,	,,	– Deficient in milk solids not fat 12%
,,	,,	74,	,,	,,	– Slightly deficient of fat
,,	,,	139,	,,	,,	– Deficient of 24% fat
,,	,,	173	,,	,,	– Deficient of 46.5% cane sugar

,,	,, 231,° ,, ,,	–	Deficient of 8% fat.
,,	,, 232, ,, ,,	–	Deficient of 10% fat.
,,	,, 83, Concentrated–Tomato Soup		Contained 4.0 grains per lb. of tin. (A figure of 2.0 grains per lb. is considered a safe maximum for the amount of tin in food).

Follow-up samples were taken in connection with samples Nos. 25, 26, 74, 139, and 232. and were found to be up to standard In the case of samples No. 173 and 231, follow-up samples could not be taken as the producers had stopped manufacturing ice cream ; warning letters were sent to the producers of Samples Nos. 231 and 232.

With respect to sample No. 83, the sample was taken after a report had been received from another authority that a consignment of this soup was found by that authority to contain tin in excessive quantity. The retailer in Walsall surrendered the whole consignment of 105 tins and they were destroyed.

In two other instances of contaminated food, concerning glass in sausage rusk being used for the manufacture of sausages and a loaf containing a cigarette end, the goods were seized and taken before a Justice of the Peace for condemnation. In these two cases, representatives of the firms involved were interviewed by the Committee and warnings were issued in respect of the contraventions.

One serious case of unsatisfactory premises and food contamintion was reported to the Health Committee and legal proceedings were decided upon. The charges involved were as follows :-

Failing to take steps to prevent risk of contamination of food.

Failing to keep clean ceiling, walls, windows and floors in rooms where food intended for human consumption was deposited for sale.

Failing to observe cleanliness with regard to certain articles in rooms in which food intended for human consumption was deposited for sale.

Failing to provide in, or within a reasonable distance of, a room where food intended for human consumption was deposited for sale, suitable wash basins for the use of persons employed in the room.

Having in possession, for the purpose of sale, food unfit for human consumption.

Allowing filth to be deposited, or to accumulate, in a room where food intended for human consumption was deposited for sale.

The magistrates took a serious view of this case and fairly heavy penalties were imposed. The magistrates, however, complimented the Department on the way in which the public health had been safeguarded and also on the way the case had been presented. Details showing the relevant statutes involved and the fines imposed are shown on page 88.

Clean Food Exhibition

It had been felt for some time that our efforts towards better conditions in the handling, storage and distribution of food could be furthered by making a direct approach to the public with regard to this matter, and that this could be best done by means of a Clean Food Exhibition. The opportunity arose when the Department was asked by the Walsall Chamber of Commerce to co-operate with them in the Festival Shopping Week. Special efforts were to be made this year to make the Shopping Week an outstanding success, and particular attention was to be given to the various aspects of trading. Discussions took place with the Chamber of Commerce as to how the Health Department could best fit in with the arrangements, and it was decided that an exhibition, illustrating the many aspects of food hygiene, together with details of methods of education, in this connection would be a most useful contribution to the Festival Shopping Week.

The first intimation that the Health Department would be contributing to the Shopping Week, was received late in the month of April, and as the Shopping Week was fixed for the 2nd to the 9th June, there were initial misgivings as to whether it would be possible to arrange such a project in the short time of six weeks. However, since it was an excellent opportunity of conveying to the public the importance of clean food, it was decided to go ahead immediately with the arrangements.

The Exhibition was arranged so as to cover as many aspects of food protection and distribution as possible, and from the outset it was decided to eliminate as much as practicable of the commercial and advertising side of the trade. It is pleasing to report that the trade readily fell in with this idea.

The various Ministries were immediately contacted, and there is no doubt that the success of the Exhibition was due in very large measure, to the help received from the Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Health. The major contribution was made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who agreed to loan a

sufficient number of stand shells, and these were supplied, erected, dismantled and taken away at the Ministry's expense. A very interesting stand and a daylight cinema unit was also installed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Display stands were loaned by the Ministry of Food and by the Ministry of Health. An immediate approach was also made to firms connected with the food trades, inviting them to make a contribution to the Exhibition in the way of stands, equipment. fittings, etc. There was an extremely encouraging response, so that with the support of the Ministries already assured, it was felt that given suitable weather, the Exhibition could not fail to be a success.

Probably the greatest initial difficulty which presented itself was the need for a suitable building. The Town Hall was not available and as is well known, there is a lack of accommodation of this kind in the town. Fortunately, however, it was found possible to utilise an unoccupied building in St. Paul's Street, which was under the control of the Property Committee. It was admirably suited to the purpose, and for the week of the Exhibition it was christened "The Exhibition Building". Much work was involved in preparing the building alone, as extensive cleaning was necessary, together with various repairs.

It was found that over 250 feet of stall frontage was available for exhibition purposes, something less than half of which was taken up by the public utility services of electricity, gas and water. Private enterprise was also well represented, a few stalls being equipped by private firms or trade associations. The main food stuffs, milk and meat, were dealt with on separate stalls, and the South Staffordshire Water Works Co. set up a very interesting display showing the complicated organisation necessary in providing an adequate and wholesome water supply for the community. The various aspects of educational work carried out by the Department was dealt with on the stall entitled "Education", and the various implications of food legislation were demonstrated under the title of "The Big Stick". Good kitchen practice was also shown. Other stalls were concerned with detergents and bactericides, glass washing, refrigerators, and all types of food equipment.

It is pleasing to report that the final response to the Department's request to traders, etc., was overwhelming, indeed, stand space had to be supplemented by tables and independent units. It was also necessary to inform a number of firms that space could not be allocated for exhibits that they wished to contribute.

The exhibition was publicised by posters, newspaper advertisements, the distribution of leaflets to schools and food traders, etc., and through the brochure published by the Chamber of Commerce especially for the Shopping Week. Printed banners were also utilised, one being placed across the Bridge and one in front of the

Exhibition Building. A number of cinemas kindly consented to show suitable slides during and just prior to the Exhibition Week.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries were very helpful in this connection, in that they agreed to make a grant towards publicity expenses.

The official opening took place at 3 p.m. on Monday the 4th June, Councillor H. S. Gwinnutt, Chairman of the Health Committee, occupied the chair and His Worship the Mayor, Alderman Tom E. Mayo, formally opened the Exhibition. They were supported by the Health Committee and other members of the Council. Representatives of the various Ministries, nearby Local Authorities and contributing firms were also present.

The Exhibition had an excellent start and the attendance recorded by the photo-electric counter over the six days was 8,409. The schools co-operated very well indeed with the arrangements made, and a large number of children visited the Exhibition in conducted parties. The Exhibition was without doubt a great success and special mention should be made of the Staff of the Department who gave their full support to the undertaking, Much work was done, especially outside office hours in assembling and arranging exhibits and later in dismantling, packing and despatching them. Many hours were given up by everyone to ensure the proper manning of the stands and the Exhibition as a whole, to answer questions and make explanations to visitors. Indeed, without the help given by the staff, especially in view of the short notice, it would have been impossible to have carried the Exhibition through.

PART 4— WATER

The water supply for the area is from the mains of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co., and was satisfactory during the year both in quantity and quality.

In only a few houses is mains water not available. Most of these cases are in outlying districts and many of the properties are likely to be the subject of housing action.

The following is an approximate proportion of the dwelling-houses supplied :-

	Houses	Population	Percentage
(a) Direct to houses	30,830	110,140	96.84
(b) Houses sharing stand pipes or common taps	1,005	3,660	3.16

A high percentage of the houses sharing standpipes or common taps are either already condemned or likely to be condemned within the next ten years.

2 samples of water from a dwellinghouse served by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and 5 samples of well water were taken and submitted to the Bacteriologist for examination ; the 5 samples of well water were unsatisfactory and advice was given on the precautions to be taken.

In addition 19 samples were obtained from a well serving a new dairy, some of these samples were not entirely satisfactory and regular check samples are being taken.

PART 5— ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

General Review

The control of atmospheric pollution in Walsall takes two main forms, namely, remedial action and preventive action.

Under the former heading the department's officers have dealt with a variety of smoke, grit, fume and noise nuisances. In spite of sometimes substantial technical difficulties, considerable progress has been achieved in certain directions, but it has to be admitted that dust, fume and noise emissions from some industrial processes are at present proving difficult to control. Fuller reference to these successes and partial successes is made in later sections of the report.

Preventive control though less obvious in its effect than remedial action, is nevertheless of great importance. Thanks to the co-operation of the Borough Surveyor and his staff, copies of plans of new factories and offices (and of extensions and alterations to these premises) are sent to the sanitary inspectors for examination and report, before being submitted to the Public Works Committee and Planning Committee. During 1951, 62 plans were scrutinised specifically for atmospheric pollution risks : in 10 cases it was necessary to ask occupiers to take special precautions to prevent smoke, grit or fume emission ; in another 6 cases, sound insulation had to be asked for in order to prevent the escape of excessive noise ; while in one case the Council were advised not to sanction a particular industrial process near dwelling houses.

Progress

It is intended under this heading briefly to refer to some of the improvements effected during the past year.

Several vertical boilers and one large Lancashire boiler have been converted to mechanical firing, with a drastic reduction of smoke and a considerable saving of fuel. A great deal of time has been devoted to giving advice to stokers and firemen: this time has been well spent but it is not feasible to evaluate its results statistically.

It is pleasing, particularly in view of the failures of preceding years, to report that a course in boiler house practice was held at the Walsall Technical College during the winter session and that it was attended by 10 stokers. During the forthcoming session it is hoped that more men will take advantage of these opportunities : by doing so they will improve the status of their job and make a useful contribution to smoke abatement.

Industrialists are reminded once again of the excellent advisory service available free from the Fuel Efficiency Branch of the Ministry of Fuel and Power.

In last year's Annual Report reference was made to the nuisance caused by burning powdered coal in metallurgical furnaces. Several of these furnaces have now been converted to fuel-oil firing, with virtual elimination of dust and smoke nuisance. The firms concerned are to be congratulated on their enterprise. It has also been possible in one case to reduce the escape of finely divided coal from a coal grinding plant.

Special Problems

During the summer, complaints were received about fumes from a colliery spoilbank situated just outside the northern boundary of the town. In concert with other Local Authorities, representations were made to the National Coal Board and steps were taken which eventually reduced the severity of the nuisance.

Last year's Annual Report contained a reference to investigations which were being carried out in connection with spray nuisance from the cooling towers of the new British Electricity Generating Station at Birchills. During the past year the Electricity Authority placed contracts for all of the six cooling towers to be equipped with the latest type of droplet arresting grid, and by the end of the year all the towers then in use had been equipped with these devises. Preliminary investigations show that droplet nuisance will be much reduced, and the Electricity Authority is to be commended for having tackled the problem expeditiously.

Control of Industrial Developments on Corporation land

In order to prevent the establishment near housing estates of industries likely to cause smoke, dust or noise nuisance, the Housing Committee now incorporates in its covenants and leases of land for industrial use a series of clauses designed to prevent such nuisances from occurring. These clauses have already proved of value, although they have only been in operation for a short time.

Noise Nuisance

One of the problems associated with the mechanisation of industry is the increased emission of noise from factory buildings. Thanks to the co-operative attitude of certain industrialists in the town, the Department has achieved a useful though limited measure of success in controlling noise nuisance. The time is rapidly approaching when statutory powers for controlling this problem will have to be sought.

Measurement of Air Pollution

The Department has continued to operate 5 Deposit Gauges (which measure suspended impurities) and 9 Lead Peroxide Instruments (which indicate the damaging effect of sulphur gases). These instruments are placed on different sites in the town and enable the degree of pollution in various localities to be compared.

The results of the analyses are set out statistically in Tables IV. and V. on pages 81 & 82, and in graph form on Pages 83 & 84. These results are transmitted monthly to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, which receives similar reports from more than 180 local authorities and co-operating organisations.

It will be seen that increased amounts of deposited matter were received at all five gauges, some of the increases being substantial. These higher figures are disquieting, particularly in view of the decline in deposited impurity from 1947 to 1949. On the other hand, meteorological conditions may well have exerted a significant influence, for 1951 was a rather wet year. Rainfall for Walsall during 1951 amounted to 34.28 inches compared with 27.5 inches in 1950 and with an average for the past sixteen years of 27.33 inches. Five of the lead peroxide instruments show decreased sulphur activity compared with 1950, while the remaining four instruments show increased sulphur pollution.

The value of having available accurate statistics of pollution was amply demonstrated during the year. In an Inquiry by the Ministry of Education this Department was able to convince the Minister that atmospheric pollution in the neighbourhood of the new Technical College was heavy and was likely to remain so for a number of years, and that it was, therefore, essential for the new College to be equipped with air conditioning plant.

I am indebted to the Sewage Works Manager and his staff for carrying out the chemical analyses in connection with atmospheric pollution work and to Mr. J. C. W. Day (F.R. Met. Soc.) for meterological information.

Domestic Smoke

It is perhaps as well to remember that domestic smoke accounts for about half of the total atmospheric pollution in the town. Property owners and tenants installing new firegrates or means of space heating can render a useful service by choosing an appliance which is smokeless. There is available a wide range of firegrates and appliances designed to burn solid smokeless fuel such as coke ; these grates will also burn ordinary coal more efficiently and with less smoke than the older types.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

TABLE IV.

Deposit Gauges—Records of Deposits—1951

Deposits in tons per Square Mile per month

Month	Bloxwich (Station St.)	North (Transport Depot)	Central (Hatherton Road)	East (Sutton Rd.)	South (Bescot)
January	25.80	20.95	24.95	7.84	25.67
February	28.38	21.60	28.01	11.92	23.83
March	24.04	26.22	30.35	18.08	24.92
April	22.06	27.08	35.59	13.91	24.14
May	18.72	20.66	14.02	8.01	15.51
June	14.95	17.38	22.71	8.08	15.39
July	15.45	13.77	20.79	8.24	13.96
August	18.03	15.40	23.91	9.95	13.67
September	17.84	18.03	16.42	5.83	16.56
October	15.96	17.73	21.60	5.76	16.94
November	26.38	28.31	28.70	16.83	32.30
December	19.74	36.41	25.30	10.05	27.39
Totals	247.35	263.54	292.35	124.50	250.28
Monthly Averages					
1951	20.61	21.96	24.36	10.37	20.85
1950	16.55*	15.89*	22.34	9.68	15.37*
1949	15.18	18.42	20.41	8.30	16.77
1948	16.95	19.69	21.59	8.21	16.80
1947	18.19	19.94	23.27	10.81	13.22

*Averages for 11 months only.

Annual Rainfall

1951	34.28 inches.
1950	27.50 inches.
1949	23.74 inches.
1948	29.78 inches.
1947	26.74 inches.

TABLE V.

Lead Peroxide Gauges—Record of Sulphur Pollution—1951

Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected - Expressed in milligrammes of SO3 per 100 square centimetres per day.

Month	Bloxwich	North	Central	East	South	Bloxwich Road	Manor Hospital	Dartmouth Avenue	Trees Road
Jan.	3.71	3.64	3.37	1.89	4.08	3.13	0.77	3.40	–
Feb.	3.60	4.09	3.98	1.40	3.15	3.22	2.07	2.98	2.16
Mar.	2.56	2.51	2.15	1.02	2.78	2.02	2.49	1.59	1.47
April.	1.70	2.42	2.59	0.70	2.22	1.65	2.04	1.31	1.16
May.	1.73	1.74	1.81	0.33	1.49	1.20	2.24	0.94	0.81
June.	1.36	1.25	1.56	0.50	1.38	0.96	1.21	0.89	–
July.	1.22	1.41	1.62	0.41	1.54	1.26	1.34	0.75	1.44
Aug.	1.65	1.51	0.59	0.28	0.94	1.15	0.77	1.18	0.93
Sep.	2.33	2.36	2.09	0.46	1.97	1.50	1.66	2.00	0.93
Oct.	2.58	2.66	3.12	0.81	2.24	3.08	1.16	2.23	1.41
Nov.	2.88	2.93	1.21	–	3.08	2.63	2.64	2.05	1.84
Dec.	3.50	3.65	3.55	1.05	3.43	3.02	2.49	2.45	2.07
Totals	28.82	30.17	27.64	8.85	28.30	24.82	20.88	21.77	14.22

Monthly Averages

1951	2.40	2.51	2.30	0.80‡	2.36	2.07	1.74	1.81	1.42*
1950	2.18	2.43	2.66	0.94	2.39	1.91	2.05	1.48	1.37
1949	2.14	2.49	2.69	1.02	2.53	2.00	2.00	1.66*	1.41*
1948	2.11	2.74	2.64	1.00	2,57	1.65	1.82	–	–

‡ Average for 11 months

* Averages for 10 months

PART 6

DISINFESTATION

Bloxwich Depot

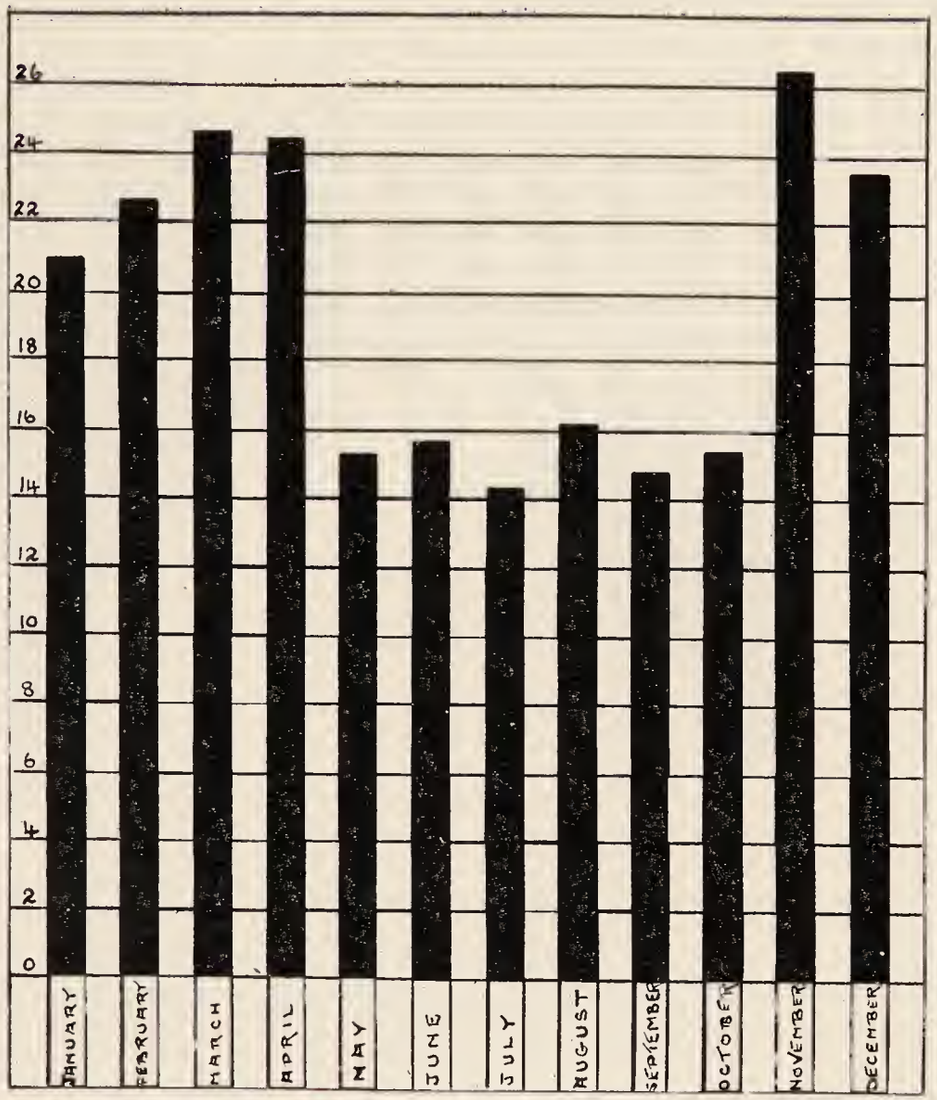
The work of reinstating the Disinfestation Depot, Bloxwich, from its wartime use for Civil Defence purposes was completed during the year. A number of improvements were also achieved at the depot, so that the establishment is now suitably arranged and equipped for disinfestation and disinfection purposes. The rodent control service has been adequately provided for and improved storage facilities for insecticides and disinfectants are a result of the work which has been carried out. Baths have been installed at the Depot for the use of the workmen, who have found them a great advantage after having dealt with the unpleasant tasks which arise from time to time, in connection with their work.

Deposit Gauges 1951.

Seasonal Incidence (Averages)

Seasonal Average For Whole Of Town.

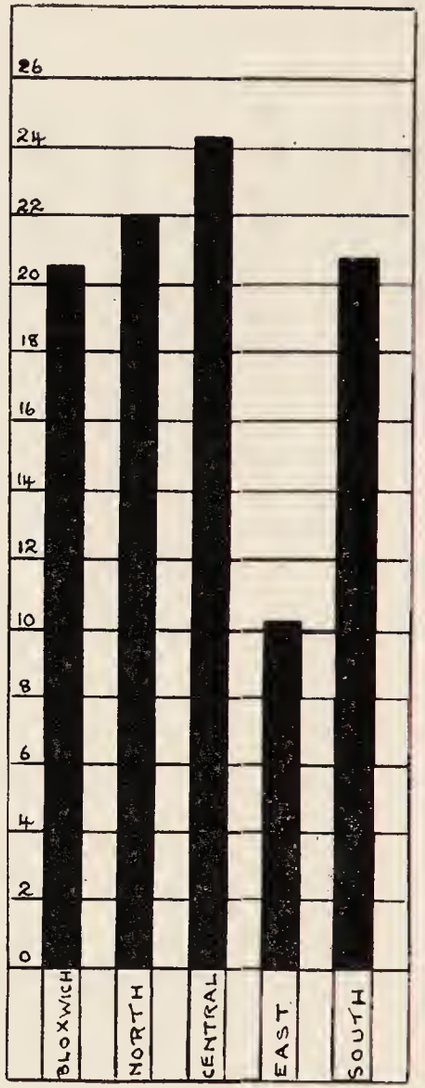
Tons/Sq Mile Per Month.



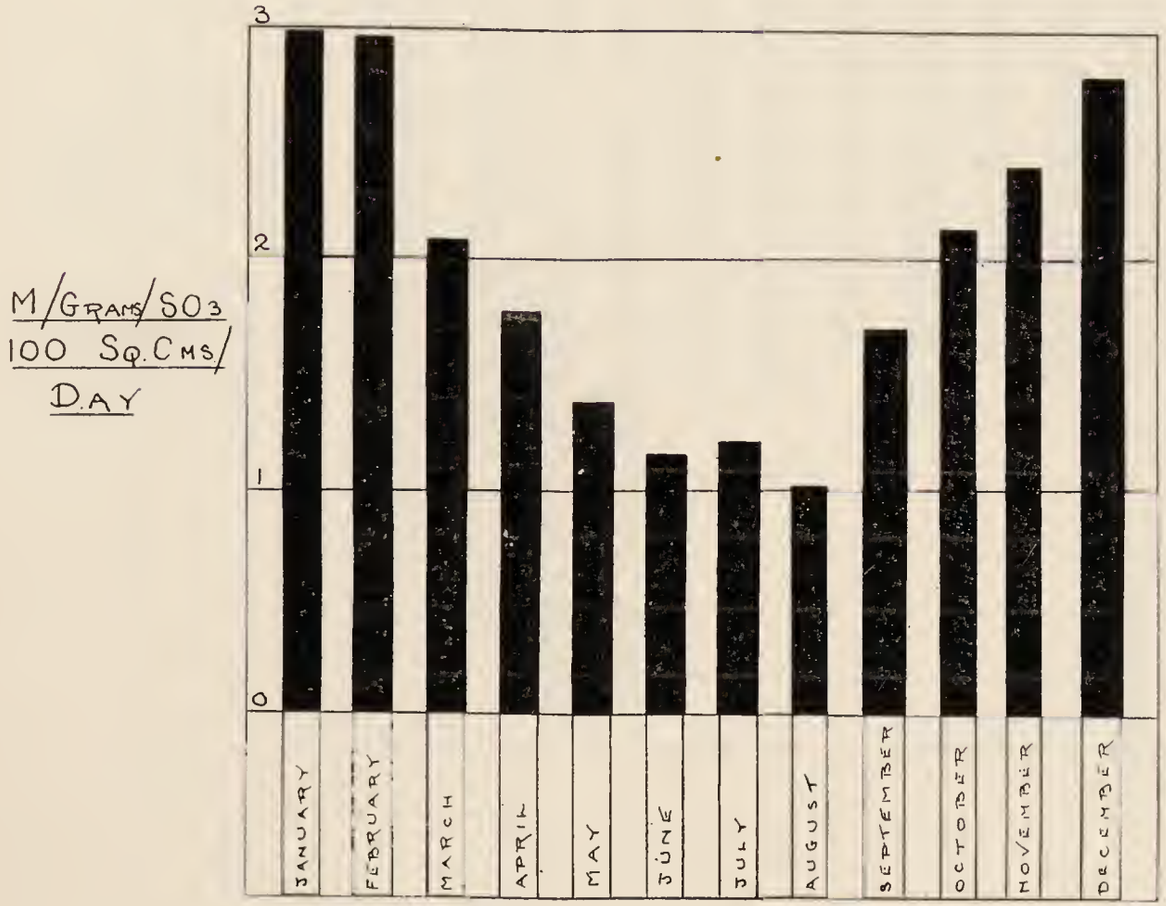
Deposit Gauges 1951.

District Incidence (Averages)

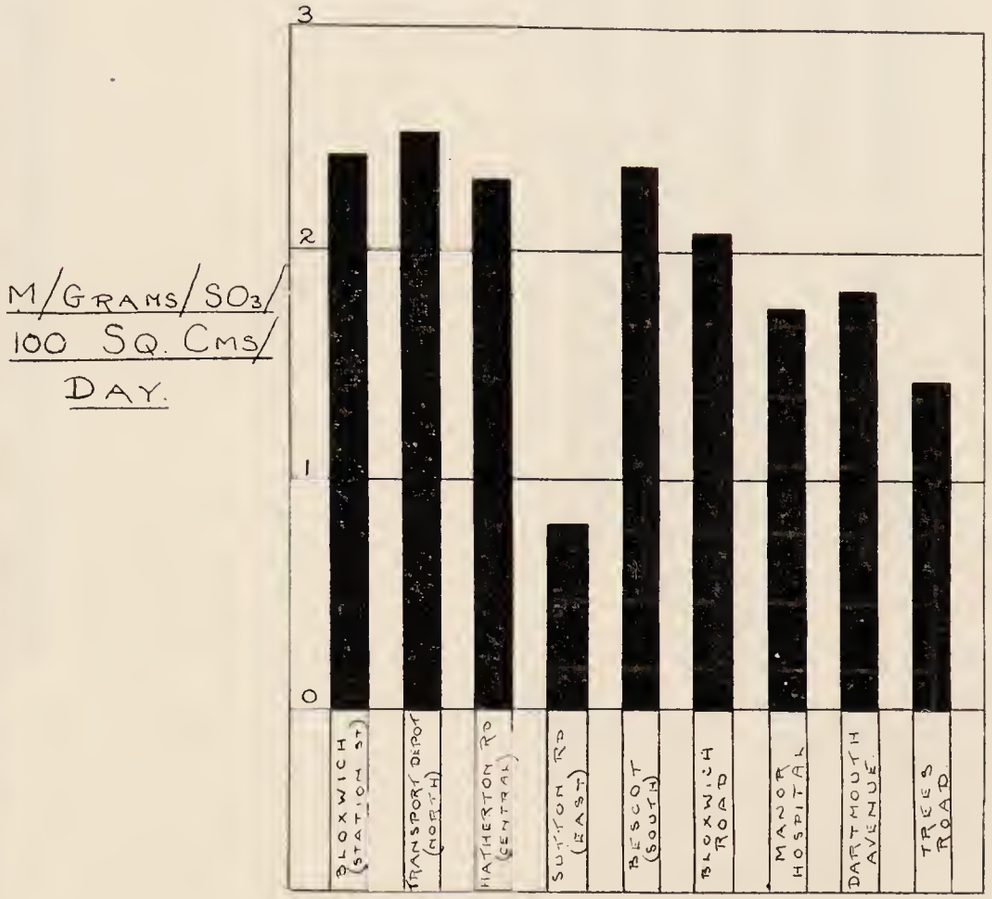
Tons Per Sq. Mile Per Month.



LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES. 1951.
(SULPHUR DIOXIDE)
SEASONAL INCIDENCE (AVERAGES)



LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES 1951
(SULPHUR DIOXIDE)
DISTRICT INCIDENCE (AVERAGES)



Housing Removal and HCN Fumigation

All cases of rehousing by the Housing Department were investigated during the year. The house and household effects of each prospective Council house tenant were inspected and where infestation was found, either of vermin or woodboring beetles, the removal was undertaken by the Health Department, The furniture and effects of some 177 families were treated for the Housing Department by HCN fumigation during 1951 because of infestation by bugs and/or furniture beetle. Where the house vacated showed signs of infestation and re-letting was intended, the owner of the house was requested to carry out disinfestation work. In a number of instances this was done by the Health Department at the owner's request, the washed heavy naptha method of disinfestation being used wherever possible.

Apart from the importance to health of a vermin free house, there is also the question of preventing damage to the structure of premises through the transfer of woodboring beetles from the old house to the new Council house. We are finding, year by year, that infestation by woodboring beetle is increasing. During the year under review 77 houses were found to be affected with woodboring beetles, compared with 33 instances last year.

General Disinfestation

During the year treatments were carried out for infestation by many types of insect, including cockroaches, fleas, moths, flies, steam flies, wasps, silverfish, etc. Ants seemed rather prevalent this year and are a difficult insect to deal with. However, the treatment recommended by the Natural History Department of the British Museum was tried at a large establishment in the town and was found to be very successful. Various types of insecticide, including D.D.T., Gammexane, heavy naptha and HCN were used. Indeed, it can be claimed that the Department is sufficiently well equipped to deal with any infestation likely to be met with in Walsall.

The types of premises treated for general disinfestation include hospitals, cinemas, restaurants and many Corporation properties and dwellinghouses, which indicates the extent to which this service is made use of.

Miscellaneous Treatments

A number of requests were received during the year for the treatment of goods and packing materials in connection with the export trade.

Disinfection

The disinfector at the Depot was in regular operation throughout the year for disinfection purposes and for disinfecting articles connected with various types of infectious disease. Well over 3,500 articles were treated, some of which were dealt with for neighbouring authorities who have not available means for disinfection.

Rodent Control

During the year, 2,282 visits were made to premises under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, 353 premises were found to be infested with rats and mice ; of which 70 were business premises.

Takes of 287 and 218 were recorded in the bi-annual treatment of the sewers ; the increased takes being accounted for by the fact that certain lengths of sewer were treated for the first time after a lapse of some years. The Council's sewage works, refuse tips, Arboretum and the brook course in the district were also treated during the year. One large group, comprising six factories, was successfully disinfested of rats under the block control system. Notices were served on the owners of 10 premises in respect of defective drainage, which was the prime cause of rat infestation, and the defects remedied.

From the increasing number of complaints being received at the office and the number of requests from industrialists and business people for the services of the Disinfestation Depot, it would appear that all sections of the community are becoming more rodent conscious and that the Department will be working to capacity in order to maintain the service at its present standard of efficiency.

Income

Income derived from business firms and private individuals for the year in respect of rodent control and general disinfestation work amounted to £327. 7. 1.

PART 7—GENERAL

Factories, Shops and Offices

There are now 884 factories on the departmental register compared with 880 last year.

Complaints of infringements of the Factories Act, 1937, or the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, 1938, were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories in respect of 32 premises. These reports were all investigated and appropriate action taken.

Details of the types of factories inspected and of the action taken are set out in Table VIII on pages. 89 and 90.

Considerable work was involved in the examination of plans submitted for alteration and improvement of these types of premises, and in many cases where improvements were required in food premises under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, it was necessary to support applications for building licences.

It has not been possible to introduce a systematic inspection of all factories and offices ; nevertheless, many visits were made to factories in connection with notifications from the Factories Inspector and also with respect to smoke abatement and town planning.

It has now become evident that regard should be had to the interests of public health when decisions are made relating to the establishment of new factories or new industrial processes in the town.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.

The appointment of Analyst under the above Act was held by Mr. F. D. G. Chalmers. 5 samples of Fertilisers were submitted to him for examination, viz :- Superphosphate of Lime, Nitrate of Soda, Bone Meal, Sulphate of Ammonia and Sulphate of Potash. All the samples were satisfactory.

Public Baths

As in previous years, considerable attention was given to the purity of the water supply in the Public Swimming Baths at Tower Street, Bloxwich and in the Arboretum. 36 samples were taken for the purpose of bacteriological and chemical analysis, as follows :-

Walsall Swimming Baths, 1st and 2nd class and Brine Baths	....	....	29	samples
Bloxwich Swimming Baths	....	....	5	samples
Arboretum Open Air Pool	....	....	2	samples

Satisfactory reports were received in respect of all the samples.

Cinemas

A number of improvements were achieved in several cinemas, in one instance additional sanitary accommodation being provided.

A number of investigations were made into the atmospheric conditions of cinemas, but further work of investigation will be necessary before specified recommendations can be made.

The new ventilating system being installed in one of the large cinemas in the town over the last two years was completed in 1951. The plant includes provision for air washing and conditioning before it is distributed throughout the building.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act came into force during the year. The object of this act is to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles and other articles which are stuffed or lined. Premises where filling materials are used in the manufacture of bedding, toys, baby carriages, etc, have to be registered and at premises where rag flock is manufactured or stored for distribution to registered premises they are subject to annual licences.

The range of filling materials used in upholstery, bedding and toy manufacture have increased considerably in recent years and Regulations have been made prescribing standards of cleanliness for various types of filling material. The introduction of the Act and the Regulations has been largely due to the extensive work carried out for several years by the British Standards Institute.

There are no premises in the Borough where rag flock is manufactured or stored for distribution, but 4 premises have been registered under the Act., The responsibility of the Local Authority under this legislation will be regular inspection of premises and the filling materials used and the submission of samples of filling materials for examination.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

The Pet Animals Act, 1951, received royal assent during the year under review and it comes into force on 1st April, 1952. This Act provides that no person shall keep a pet shop except under the authority of a licence granted by the Local Authority. It applies to all premises, including private dwellings, where the business of selling animals as pets is carried on. Several premises in the town will come within the scope of the Act and will be subject to licence by the Local Authority and regular inspection by the Department's officers.

PART 8.—LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

No legal proceedings were instituted under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, but legal proceedings were instituted on one occasion in respect of contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, viz :-

Act under which proceedings were taken.	Nature of offence.	Remarks.
Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 9 and 13.	Contravention of Section 9 (1) para (a) ,, 13 (1) ,, (c) ,, ,, (1) ,, (d) ,, ,, (1) ,, (g) ,, ,, (1) ,, (h) ,, ,, (1) ,, (i) ,, ,, (2) ,, (b)	The defendant was committed on 10 out of 12 offences and was fined a total of £55, plus £10. 10. 0 costs.

TABLE VIII.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1938

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	M/c line No.	Number on Register	Number of			M/c line No.
			Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	72	13	Nil	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	810	124	41	Nil	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
Total		884	137	41	Nil	

TABLE VIII. (*continued*)

2.—CASES IN WHICH **DEFECTS** WERE FOUND

Pariculars	M!c line No.)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M!c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	4	28	20	–	24	–	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	–	–	–	–	–	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	–	–	–	–	–	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	7	7	–	6	–	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	–	–	–	–	–	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(*a*) Insufficient	9	9	6	1	7	–	9
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	10	43	23	–	34	–	10
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	11	3	1	–	3	–	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	12	42	27	–	31	–	12
TOTAL	60	132	84	1	105	–	60

OUTWORKERS

In accordance with Section 110, reports were received of a total number of 71 Outworkers, 60 engaged in making wearing apparel and 11 engaged in connection with brush making. It was not necessary to take any action with respect to Outworkers.

CONCLUSION

The Report indicates that the trends noticed in the previous year, of a return to more normal conditions, were continued, although certain aspects of the work have naturally had more attention than others.

I must again pay tribute to the continued support and co-operation of the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health and, in a year in which I held office as Chairman of the General Council of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, I owe a very special debt of gratitude to the members of my own staff who have again given unstinting service and to whom I tender my sincere thanks. I wish especially to mention the help and assistance I have received from Mr. J. Green, my Deputy, and the Specialist Inspectors, Messrs. Woodward, Bayley, Kelley, Perry and Monks, in the preparation of this Report.

Yours obediently,

C. A. Stansbury

Chief Sanitary Inspector

REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
For the Year ended 31st December, 1951.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report on the School Health Service for the year ended 31st December, 1951.

We have been fortunate during the year in having an unchanged medical staff, and, for the first time for some years, the work of the School Health Service has been carried out without staff difficulties. Dr. J. Maclachlan, the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Dr. A. Laurie and Dr. A. Rowles, Assistant Medical Officers of Health, have all been engaged either full time or part time in the School Health Service.

The School Dental Staff, which, at the beginning of the year was depleted to the Senior Dental Surgeon, was increased for nine months by the appointment of a lady Dental Officer on a part time basis and on a full time basis for the last three months of the year. I am glad to report that since the beginning of February 1952 we have had available the services of another lady Dental Officer on a part time basis and attention has been paid to overcoming arrears of work in this sphere.

Much attention has also been given throughout the year to the educationally subnormal child and the assessment of such children is, for the first time for many years, almost completely up to date. Steps have been taken, where possible, to cater for their differing needs although we are handicapped by the lack of provision of day special school facilities. We look forward to the time when such a school is available, and not only will its provision solve many of the problem cases with which our Medical Officers have to deal, but will also be of outstanding benefit to the ordinary schools of the town.

The care of these children is an exacting task and is one of which we believe the primary schools could well be relieved.

Early in the year arrangements were made with the Medical Research Council to carry out a controlled trial of anti-tuberculosis immunisation amongst Secondary Modern School children leaving each term throughout the year. The parents of the children were invited to give their consent, and the response was reasonably good, 516 children being entered for the scheme. The object of the scheme is to ascertain whether vaccinated children are protected against tuberculosis as compared with an unvaccinated group who are similar in all other respects. Only if the results of this trial appear to justify vaccination will mass inoculation be offered to the school population as a whole.

All the children accepting were given tuberculin skin tests and an X-ray of the chest, and of those children whose skin tests showed that they had not yet been infected with tuberculosis, 92 were inoculated with Vole and 100 were inoculated with B.C.G. Vaccine. A small number of children were removed from the scheme due to their having been in contact with cases of tuberculosis, and such children were transferred to the care of the Tuberculosis Officer.

The trial is to be continued during the spring and summer terms of 1952, and all these children will have an annual re-examination and X-ray of the chest for the next three or four years. It will be appreciated that these examinations will perforce have to be carried out in the evening after the young people have finished work, and the Littleton Street School Clinic premises have been made available for the purpose.

Excellent co-operation was received from the Head Teachers, to whom the scheme was explained by the Medical Officer of the Medical Research Council, and our thanks are due to them for their help.

1.—SCHOOL HEALTH WORK

The following notes on various aspects of the School Health Service have been provided at my request by Dr. A. Laurie.

Medical Inspections. The number of children seen at periodic medical examinations during 1951 was 8,041. The corresponding figure for 1950 was 7,737.

The increase in medical staff allowed many re-inspections to be carried out of disabilities discovered within the previous twelve months, to assess progress and ensure that treatment recommended had in fact been carried out.

The school medical inspection has as its main purpose the examination of the child in its school environment, as an individual, and also as a member of an age-group, to determine any deviation from the normal. The cause of the deviation may lie in the child, in the school, or in the home, and for the child to receive full benefit from the examination, the child, the parent and the doctor must meet in an atmosphere of privacy to allow full examination and discussion. The repetitive form of examination requires constant alertness on the part of the medical staff, and a most valuable stimulant to the examiners is the interested parent. It is unfortunate that more parents do not take advantage of the invitation extended to them to attend the examination of the child. The parent usually accompanies the young child at his first examination, but it is unusual for her to attend when the child reaches junior school age, partly the result of resistance on the part of the child.

Also the present arrangement in the country as a whole, whereby medical examinations are carried out in any school room which by chance becomes available, is not satisfactory. Empty classrooms, dining rooms, woodwork rooms and assembly halls are all pressed into service and in none of these can there be the privacy necessary to encourage parents to attend.

The difficulty in supplying suitable rooms in already overcrowded schools must be a continual source of worry to the headmasters concerned, and, even with the best will in the world, they must often regard medical inspections as an inconvenience rather than an asset. It is hoped that the inclusion of medical rooms in new schools will not be withheld in the interests of economy.

The system of record keeping, so essential to any efficient service, has been improved by the use of the new type record cards brought into being by the Ministry of Education. They contain much more information than the old type cards, and consist of two cards per child. The more detailed card is kept in the medical clinic, and the other is kept by the Headmaster. The Medical Officer inserts on this second card information which he considers the Headmaster should have concerning the child's health.

Clinics.

There has been a great demand on the services of the school clinics in 1951, and some alteration has been made to increase the efficiency and working capacity of this most important service.

The school clinic at Littleton Street was not completely suitable for the purpose. Consulting and dispensing were carried out in the same room, and medical records were not immediately available, while the area it served was overlapped by that of the Bradford Street Clinic. Littleton Street Clinic was closed, and the staff and

equipment transferred to Bradford Street, where an extra session was opened. This latter clinic has been much improved by the opening of a treatment room for minor injuries.

The centralisation of the clinic service for Walsall at Bradford Street has allowed a much closer liaison with the Dental Service, which is in the same building. It is now the practice for children to be medically examined before being given anaesthesia for dental extraction.

The clinic at Field Road, Bloxwich, is working at full pressure. and arrangements are now being made to open an additional session there.

There has been little change in the broad pattern of disease as seen at the clinics, and there has been no great increase in the incidence of any one. The most common ailments seen were those of the skin, the respiratory tract, and conditions of the throat and nose.

(1) There has been a marked drop in the number of cases of impetigo diagnosed, and fewer cases of scabies seen. A sudden rise in the observed incidence of ringworm of the feet occurred in the late autumn, but a rapid search for cases and intensive treatment seemed to bring about a fairly rapid fall in the number of cases and few new ones were seen in the last month of the year.

(2) Persistent bronchitis still causes much long term disability among the children and it is a great problem to the school health services of the country. Much of the unsatisfactory attendance at school is due to this ailment and to the general debility produced by it. The treatment of the general debility is in many cases the best way to improve the child's health and many of our cases are given ultra-violet ray therapy, or sent for a time to the coast or the country with this aim in view. Their education may be carried out at our school for delicate children if their disability makes them unsuited to the rough and tumble of ordinary school life.

(3) Diseases of the tonsils and adenoids still cause much illness and disability. There is no doubt that many cases recover spontaneously without operation, and it will be seen from the statistics that many more cases are retained for observation for this reason. A child in whom removal of tonsils is necessary has to wait some 1½ years for the operation, although the hospitals have been most co-operative in giving priority to urgent cases.

(4) A special investigation has been carried out to find a suitable and convenient treatment for two very common ail-

ments among school children, warts of the skin, and bed-wetting. The latter causes much distress to older children and is responsible for and associated with much psychological disturbance in them. It is unfortunately very common and the parents have been only too willing to co-operate.

A most important part of the work of the clinics is that of treating and dressing minor wounds and abrasions. This unspectacular work by the nurses goes on every weekday and is one of the keystones of the medical services to the children.

Reedswood Park School.

This most valuable school for delicate children has been further improved in 1951 by the fitting of sliding glass doors to the classrooms, to allow greater protection to the children in inclement weather.

The children are examined by the medical officer three times a year, and more often in special cases.

Transfers to this school are normally made at the beginning of each term, but a vacancy is reserved then for any case requiring immediate transfer at any time during the school year.

Most of the pupils at the school suffer from diseases of the heart and respiratory system. These illnesses often render a child so delicate that he cannot keep pace with his fellows in an ordinary school. The quiet, orderly and restful life at the school in Reedswood Park allows the child to receive his education in an environment suited to his limited physical endurance.

2.—SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

	Queen Mary's High and Grammar Schools		925 pupils	
	Art School		75 ,,	
	Technical College		150 ,,	
	Elmore Green High School		440 ,,	
	Joseph Leckie Comprehensive Secondary School		960 ,,	
	Edward Shelley High School		360 ,,	
(a)	No. of Secondary Schools			11
	County Schools	9		
	Voluntary Schools	2		
	with accommodation for 4,330 pupils.			
(b)	No. of Primary Schools			47
	County Schools	32		
	Voluntary Schools	15		
	with accommodation for 14,527 pupils			
(c)	Nursery Schools			3
	with accommodation for 120 pupils.			

(d) Reedswood Park School for 60 pupils.
(e) Beacon Residential School for Educationally Subnormal Pupils .... 77 pupils

The number of pupils on the register at 31st December, 1951, was 19,821, as follows:- Primary and Secondary Modern Schools 16,951, Queen Mary's School 883, Art School 70, Technical College 118, Elmore Green High School 423, Edward Shelley High School 328, Joseph Leckie Comprehensive Secondary School 868, Nursery Schools 120, Reedswood Park 60.

Of the 16,951 pupils in Primary and Secondary Schools, the average attendance was 15,254.

3.—PUPILS EXAMINED

8,041 pupils were medically examined in the course of routine inspections ; of that number the general condition was described as good in 44.42%, fair in 53.58% and as poor in 2.0%.

The following table shows the average heights and weights of all pupils medically inspected during 1951 -

		Numbers		Height, ins.		Weight, lbs.	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
New Entrants	(5+)	1166	1139	42.6	40.8	43.7	40.8
Juniors	(8+)	851	759	50.9	50.3	60.1	58.3
Juniors	(10+)	752	734	54.1	53.9	71.4	70.3
Seniors	(12+)	686	735	57.2	57.8	87.6	86.6
Leavers	(14+)	592	627	62.4	61.7	105.9	107.9

4.—SCHOOL CLINICS AND FOLLOW-UP

The treatment of minor ailments is carried out at the three School Clinics.

890 children were referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon for errors of refraction or squint. Spectacles were prescribed in 760 cases and obtained in 753 cases. Five children suffering from squint were referred for orthoptic treatment. 461 children received operative treatment for adenoids and/or chronic tonsillitis, 6 for other nose and throat conditions, and 8 received other forms of treatment.

During the year 981 home visits were paid by the school nurses for the following purposes - (a) obtaining the consent of parents for eye treatment, (b) interviewing parents with regard to their children failing to keep appointments with the Orthopaedic Specialist, or failing to keep appointments for treatment (c) post -tonsillectomy visits to arrange for breathing excercises (d) following up bad defects found at school medical inspections to ensure that treatment was obtained, (e) following up cases of long absence from school reported by Head Teachers where it was thought that no treatment was being obtained.

5.—UNCLEANLINESS

There has been a further decline in the number of cases of Scabies treated - 52 as against 83 in 1950.

The general standard of head cleanliness shows a considerable improvement over previous years, but still leaves much to be desired.

The average uncleanliness rate is 5.4% as against 6.3% last year.

The Secondary Modern Girl's Schools are again the worst offenders ; with three exceptions all these schools have an average of 10% - 14% of unclean heads and they are followed closely by the Junior Girls' Schools and even one or two Infants' Schools.

Much time is spent in home visiting, and D.D.T. Head Lotions are supplied free of charge.

Constant visiting of schools and homes by the cleanliness nurses appears to be at last effecting some improvement in the incidence of head uncleanliness, the average for all children in the borough having been reduced from 7.2% in 1949 to 5.4% in 1951.

Parents are more co-operative in cleaning the smaller children but the older girls continue to be the greatest source of trouble. At least three Secondary Modern Girls' Schools have, however, shown a marked improvement.

The standard of bodily cleanliness has been fairly good on the whole, the older boys being usually the worst offenders.

There are still far too many boys and girls whose clothing is not as clean as it might be, and a few cases of inadequate clothing have been reported during the year.

During the year 107,675 examinations of pupils in the schools were made by the school cleanliness nurses, somewhat fewer than in the previous year. The number of individual children found unclean was 1,103, showing a slight decrease.

6.—PHYSICAL EDUCATION

I am indebted to Mr. A. J. Spears and Miss I. Munden, Physical Training Organisers, for the following interesting report on Physical Education in the Schools.

"Considerable interest has been focused on statistical reports that the average heights and weights of school children in the past year show marked increases. The physique of some, if not the majority, of our pupils over 14 years has improved far more than we could have imagined, and testifies to the wisdom of the raising of the school leaving age.

The year 1951 has shown steady improvement in facilities for carrying out a modern scheme of physical education in our schools, and an increasing ease on the part of the teachers in applying modern methods to the work. In the infants' departments a sound foundation on which to build the more advanced techniques of the junior and senior schools is being laid.

A notable feature this year was the Physical Education Displays during Education Week which took place in the Town Hall. Work which reached a high standard of performance was shown by children of all ages, and the public must have obtained a clear impression of the range and diversity of activities which is offered in our schools today.

Expenditure on equipment and clothing for Physical Education has of necessity been more limited this year than in previous years, but replacement of worn-out materials has been maintained, and some new climbing and agility apparatus has been provided for those schools which had none.

Thanks to the co-operation of the Parks Department more playing pitches have been made available for Football and Hockey, Cricket and Rounders. The standard of play is improving, while still more pupils are enjoying the privilege of taking part in these national games. Special mention should be made of the developments in games for girls, which in all parts of the country have tended to lag behind those of the boys. For the first time we have fifteen out of the sixteen secondary departments in the Borough playing Hockey and using a pitch in public park or Committee's playing field.

It is gratifying to report that after our first unsuccessful attempt to launch a team competition in High Jumping we have now succeeded with a very good response from seven departments, so that both boys and girls of secondary school age have been competing in the High Jump League competitions.

A one-day course in Athletics coaching was arranged for men and women teachers under the auspices of the Amateur Athletic Association Coaching Scheme. The coaching of our boys and girls in athletic events will have been helped considerably by this opportunity to obtain guidance direct from experts of national calibre.

The picture of facilities available for the school leaver is a satisfactory one, and it should be possible for all those pupils who wish to do so to continue with some healthy form of physical recreation.

The results of the Swimming Certificate Tests this year show a noticeable decline in those qualifying for Learner's and this may be

partly accounted for by the fact that the season was curtailed by a late opening of the Baths at Tower Street for repairs to be carried out. The season is all too short in any case, but this has undoubtedly reduced the elementary awards seriously. The marked drop in the girls' awards is disappointing.

The more proficient swimmers who take the Life Saving Society's awards have been less affected by the shortened season but there is nevertheless an unwelcome reduction in our successes for the elementary certificate.

The statistics appended will enable a comparison to be made with the total awards for 1950.

	1951	
	Boys	Girls
1st Class Certificate	80	28
2nd Class Certificate	167	117
3rd Class Certificate	201	90
Proficiency	186	107
Junior Learners	127	155
	761	497

Total Boys and Girls 1950 - 1,517
Total Boys and Girls 1951 - 1,258

Royal Life-Saving Society Certificates, 1951. (1950 results in brackets)	Boys		Girls	
Junior Respiration	Nil	(14)	Nil	
Bronze Cross	Nil	(1)	Nil	
Bronze Bar	Nil		10	(5)
Bronze Medallion	11	(7)	20	(14)
Intermediate Certificate	18	(13)	27	(18)
Elementary Certificate	45	(40)	38	(55)
	74	(75)	95	(92)

Total Boys and Girls 1950 - 167
Total Boys and Girls 1951 - 169

7.—PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK FOR SCHOOL CHILDERN

I am indebted to Mrs. D. M. Curtis, School Meals Organiser, for the following report on the School Meals Service.

"The slight decline in the number of school meals served has been checked during 1951, and the figures for the year - 1,092,944

(924,924 paid and 168,020 free) shows a small increase of 13,390. In view of the large number of absences of both children and staff during the influenza epidemic of January last, this is encouraging, as it is also the comment of many Head Teachers that the children taking school dinners resisted infection more readily.

One new kitchen, at the Edgar Stammers C.P. School, has been opened, and meals cooked at Bloxwich and Fullbrook Central Kitchens respectively are being served at the Busill Jones, Green Rock and Alumwell Road Schools. A greater demand could easily be met by the Service.

The "Milk in Schools" Scheme whereby all children on school registers (even when absent through illness) are supplied with one-third pint daily, free of charge, remains in operation. The latest official figures, relating to a day in October. are 15,346 one-third pints, which represents 84.46% of the children in attendance at school on that day.

8.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DIPHTHERIA. No cases of diphtheria occurred in school children during the year. Eight hundred and twenty-five children under the age of 5 years and 888 between the ages of 5 and 15, a total of 1,713 were immunised against diphtheria. One thousand two hundred and twenty-eight children received a re-inforcing dose.

Scarlet Fever. There were 52 cases of scarlet fever amongst school children, against 92 in 1950. There were no deaths.

Eight hundred school children were notified as suffering from measles, with one death. There were 162 cases of whooping cough, 17 of pneumonia, 14 of dysentery, 1 of paratyphoid and 2 of food poisoning. There were 2 deaths from pneumonia. We are glad to report that no cases of poliomyelitis or meningococcal infection were notified amongst school children.

9.—HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Deaf. There were 15 children in residential schools for the deaf or partially deaf at the end of the year. Three children were in attendance at Special Day Schools. One girl was discharged during the year as unsuitable.

Blind. Two totally blind and seven partially sighted children were in residence in special schools at the end of the year. One totally blind and educationally subnormal boy was in a residential special school. One boy was placed during the year, and one boy reached school leaving age.

Educationally Subnormal. Three boys were admitted to Beacon Residential School, Lichfield, during the year; four boys were discharged on attaining school leaving age and one boy was discharged as unsuitable. There were 31 Walsall boys in residence at the end of the year.

Two girls were admitted to Monyhull during the year.

Forty-four children examined during the year were found to be educationally subnormal and in need of educational training in special schools. Twenty-five children were recommended for special educational treatment as educationally subnormal pupils in ordinary schools. There were 98 ascertained educationally subnormal children awaiting admission to a special school at the end of the year. This figure includes 20 children attending the special class in Harden Primary School. The provision of a day special school for this type of child becomes more and more urgent.

The following children were notified to the local health authority :-

Under Section 57 (3)	Idiots or Imbeciles	11
Under Section 57 (5)	Educationally Subnormal	3
	Total	14

Other Handicapped Pupils. During the year one boy was placed in a school for the partially sighted, one boy in a school for the physically handicapped, one boy in a day school for spastics, one girl in a training college for spastics, two boys and one girl in schools for the maladjusted, one boy in a school for heart cases, and one girl in a school for cases of bronchiectasis.

These handicapped children were in the following Special Schools at the end of the year :-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Royal School for the Deaf, Birmingham (One of these girls reached school leaving age at the end of the year.)	1	4	5
The Mount School for the Deaf, Stoke-on-Trent (One girl found to be educationally subnormal and discharged in July 1951)	2	8	10

	Boys	Girls	Total
Moseley Road School for the Deaf, Birmingham	2	–	2
Day School for the Deaf, Sheffield	1	–	1
Royal Institute for the Blind (One boy reached school leaving age during the year)	4	3	7
Exhall Grange, Warwickshire (partially-sighted)	1	1	2
Condover Hall, Shrewsbury (Blind & Educationally Subnormal)	1	–	1
National Children's Home (Physically Defective & Educationally Subnormal)	1	–	1
Tudor Grange, Solihull (Physically Defective)	1	1	2
Baskerville, Birmingham (Heart Cases) (One girl discharged in April 1951. Too ill to remain)	1	–	1
Carlson House, Harbourne (Day school for Spastics) (One girl discharged in July 1951)	1	–	1
Colthurst House, Warford (Epileptics)	–	1	1
Maghull, Lancashire (Epileptics) (One boy discharged in January 1951)	–	–	–
Puckle Hill House (Vocational Training College for Spastics)	–	1	1
Bodenham Manor, Hereford (Maladjusted)	–	1	1
Trench Hall, Wem (Maladjusted)	1	–	1
Hill Orchard, Meriden (Maladjusted)	1	–	1
Ledston Hall, Leeds (Maladjusted) (One boy discharged in April 1951)	–	–	–
Barford Hall, Leek (Maladjusted)	1	–	1
Bradstock Locket, Southport (Heart Cases) (One boy discharged 27.12.51)	–	–	–
Meath School of Recovery, Ottershaw (One girl discharged 26.7.51)	–	–	–
Educationally Subnormal - Beacon School, Lichfield	30	–	30
Monyhull, Birmingham	–	5	5
Besford Court	1	–	1

Home Tuition. Education was provided in their own homes for eight children whose physical condition was such that they were unable to attend any primary or secondary school. At the end of the year two children were awaiting home tuition. Teaching was provided for the last few weeks of the year at the Manor Hospital for children who are confined to hospital for a long stay. Teaching will commence at the General Hospital in the New Year.

Crippled Children. 688 children received treatment at the Orthopædic Clinic, Bradford Street, and 49 children received in-patient treatment at the Royal Cripples Hospitals, The Woodlands and the Forelands.

Hospital Treatment. 877 school children were admitted to hospitals in Walsall for in-patient treatment.

Speech Therapy. Two Speech Therapy clinics are provided, one at Littleton Street School Clinic and the other at the Field Road School Clinic, there being one full-time Speech Therapist employed.

At the commencement of the year there were 66 children receiving treatment, 72 were admitted for treatment and 77 discharged. 138 children have been under treatment during the year as follows :-

Stammerers 43, Dyslalics 74, Cleft Palate 9, Others 12,

These children made 1469 attendances. 897 attendances of parents were made to the Clinics during the year and in addition 41 children were interviewed and advice given to parents. There were 35 children on the waiting list for treatment at the end of the year, a considerable reduction over the position at the end of last year.

It is pleasing to record that there has been an increased amount of parental interest shown, many mothers regularly accompanying their children to the Clinics in order that they may fully co-operate with the treatment which their children are receiving. Close contact between clinic and home is of great importance in cases of stammerers. Visits to the homes of cases have been made by the Speech Therapist in order to gain a clearer picture of the child's integration with the family as a whole.

10.—BEACON RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

The following report on the work of the school during the year has been supplied by Mr C. A. Norman, the Superintendent of the Beacon Residential School for Educationally Subnormal Children.

"Residential Schools for Educationally Subnormal Children take responsibility for many of the "problem" children of the edu-

cational system. It is true to say that all the boys at the Beacon School have such a history. The problems presented may be merely scholastic in type. Frequently, however, there are behaviour problems also to be resolved, and in some cases these problems have already led to conflict with authority before the boy comes to the School. This, then, is the field of work.

In the classroom, good if unspectacular work has been done in reading and arithmetic. In reading, much teaching apparatus has been prepared ; a small School Library was opened in September ; and the boys have been encouraged to read newspapers and periodicals, in addition to the normal daily work. In arithmetic, shopping expeditions made possible by the pocket money scheme approved by the Committee in February have been a valuable aid ; a school shop, using real money but imitation goods, has been useful. The work in Art has shown promise and the boys' design work is particularly pleasing. In the Shoe-Repairing, Gardening and Woodwork classes the standard of work has been well maintained.

Under a new scheme whereby much of the recreation time is supervised by the teachers, many activities have flourished. They include Morris and Sword Dancing, Woodwork, Crafts of various kinds, Scouts and Cubs, as well as the more usual outdoor and indoor games. To the great efforts made to keep the boys busy and interested when they are not in School must be attributed the steadily rising standards of conduct throughout the year.

Most successful events during the year were Sports Day and the Annual Prize Giving, a Flower and Vegetable Show, and a Pantomime of which four performances were given, one of them at the Christmas Party before an audience that included the Mayor and Mayoress of Walsall, our Chairman, and many members of the Committee.

During the year 12 boys were admitted and 17 boys were discharged. On the last day of the Christmas term statistics were as follows :-

Number of boys in the School 77
(30 from Walsall and 47 from other authorities)

Age Distribution

	8–9 yrs	9–10 yrs	10–11 yrs	11–12 yrs	12–13 yrs	13–14 yrs	14–15 yrs	15–16 yrs
Walsall boys	–	3	3	2	7	5	3	7
Other boys	2	4	3	5	5	10	6	12
Total	2	7	6	7	12	15	9	19

Distribution by I.Q.:-

	Less than 50	50–59	60–69	70–79	80–89
Number of boys	2	9	32	31	3

Average I.Q. 67.7"

11.—DENTAL TREATMENT

The following report on the School Dental Service has been received from Mr. R. E. Morgan, L.D.S., Senior Dental Surgeon.

"Last year I drew attention to the difficulties experienced as a result of the shortage of dental staff. The situation has continued and in the year under review, limitation and restriction of treatment have again been unavoidable. The cumulative effect of the last four years is very manifest, with the consequent effect on the general health of the school child. Towards the end of the year the outlook appeared a little brighter, the services of two whole-time Dental Officers being available.

The year commenced with a staff of one full-time Dental Officer and one part-time Dental Officer, Mrs. I. M. Millar again resuming duty in the latter capacity. From the commencement of October, her services were available as a whole-time officer. The amount of work accomplished compared favourably with that of the previous year, but it was still not possible to meet the great volume of conservative work required.

The percentage of patients called and given treatment was 95%, this figure varying little from that of last year. This response was very good, but still very large numbers of children were unable to be offered the opportunity of dental treatment. The number of patients inspected was 4,552, of whom 4,284 required attention. Many presented dental conditions needing several visits and once again priority and selective treatment was necessary. Dental hygiene was poor, mainly due to lack of systematic inspection and treatment.

The number of extractions and fillings for the year was 6,681 and 1,838 respectively. In the permanent dentition, 848 teeth were found to be unsaveable and extracted, whilst the fillings inserted amounted to 1,729. A comparison with last year showed an increase in the number of permanent teeth extracted, indicating the present difficulty of caries control. The output of fillings continued good, the number of teeth saved being 1,500. General anæsthetics were administered on 2,270 occasions, with local injections amounting to 258. Comparing the teeth filled with those extracted in the permanent dentition, there is a ratio of slightly over 2 to 1, two teeth being saved to each one extracted. As far as poss-

ible, conservative treatment was given to those cases deriving the most benefit, at the same time ensuring the best use being made of the dental services. Routine treatment continued to be carried out, although at times difficult, with an increase in the number of emergency cases, the figure for these being 1,373.

In the section "other operations", the number for which was 234, various forms of treatment were carried out. These were chiefly in connection with oral affections, particularly gingivitis, which was found to be more prevalent than last year. Several cases of Vincent's Angina were seen, some of which required prolonged attention. The measures used included vitamin C therapy, cauterisation, silver nitrate applications, interstitial packings and specific mouth-washes. Dental irregularities were treated either by the use of simple appliances or judicious extraction, excellent results being obtained in the less gross forms of overcrowding. Although not under this section, scaling and polishing of the teeth was an important prophylactic measure, aiding in preventing more serious conditions and providing encouragement in the hygiene of the mouth. Once again I am indebted to the Manor Hospital and the Birmingham Dental Hospital for the co-operation and facilities made available. The X-ray department of the former provided 83 films, while numerous cases of overcrowding received specialised treatment at the latter hospital

Surveying the year as a whole, the results accomplished by a depleted staff were very good. Despite every effort, however, many arrears remain, while present demands increase. The Dental condition of the school population, not only of the Borough, but of the nation, has deteriorated and will continue to do so unless adequate staff is available. My thanks are due to the dental staff for their unremitting efforts and splendid team work during the past year".

12.—HEALTH EDUCATION

The lectures on Hygiene and Mothercraft, which have been given in previous years, have been continued during 1951 under the direction of Miss G. Johnson, Superintendent Health Visitor, and members of her staff.

During the year twelve courses of lectures were given to senior school girls, 106 lectures in all being given. Visits were arranged to Child Welfare Centres, where practical instruction was given in the care of infants.

Each course consisted of approximately eight lectures, covering personal hygiene, general hygiene and mothercraft, and followed the pattern which proved so successful in previous years.

The talks to parents have again been continued where possible, and during the year six such lectures were given to parents of school children upon matters relating to the welfare of their children and upon the various services provided by the Health Department. Some of the lectures were concerned with safety in the home, and followed the advice given by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Increasing attention is being paid to the prevention of accidents in the home, which can have such far-reaching consequences, and the Superintendent Health Visitor and three members of her staff attended a course of instruction on the prevention of home accidents, held in Birmingham.

13.—CONCLUSION

We feel that a valuable years' work has been done for the school children of Walsall. A full medical staff and the active co-operation of teachers, nursing staff and administrative staff has enabled us to keep abreast of our work and this will be reflected by ensuring to each child the education most appropriate to its mental and physical capacity.

My sincere thanks are due to the Director of Education, his staff, and to the Head Teachers for their very helpful co-operation at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS ROSS,

April 1952 School Medical Officer.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT RETURNS

Year ended 31st December, 1951.

TABLE 1

Medical Inspection of Pupils Attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools (including Special Schools)

A. Periodic Medical Inspections.

(1) Number of Inspections:

Entrants	2,305	
Second Age Group	1,486	
Third Age Group	1,219	
	Total	5,010

(2) Number of other Periodic Inspections 3,031

Grand Total 8,041

B. Other Inspections

Number of Special Inspections	3,712
Number of Re-Inspections	3,036
Total	6,748

C. Pupils Found to Require Treatment

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin)

Group (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint) (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table 2A (3)	Total individual pupils (4)
Entrants	10	307	312
Second Age Group	97	114	201
Third Age Group	72	59	130
Total (prescribed groups)	179	480	643
Other Periodic Inspections	206	280	466
Grand Total	385	760	1109

TABLE 2

A. Return of Defects Found by Medical Inspection in the Year Ended 31st December, 1951.

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections		Special Inspections	
	No. of defects		No. of defects	
	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Skin	57	122	369	21
Eyes—a. Vision	385	136	85	14
b. Squint	44	72	8	2
c. Other	19	29	77	3
Ears—a. Hearing....	27	54	26	5
b. Otitis Media	34	65	104	6
c. Other	9	46	45	7
Nose or Throat	193	1107	301	125
Speech	25	51	10	14
Cervical Glands	52	478	12	69
Heart and Circulation	19	146	54	22
Lungs	43	225	187	24
Developmental—				
a. Hernia	7	23	1	2
b. Other	7	21	7	3
Orthopædic—				
a. Posture	27	52	8	13
b. Flat foot	94	112	20	23
c. Other	65	153	87	57
Nervous System				
a. Epilepsy....	2	19	–	–
b. Other	8	35	2	3
Psychological—				
a. Development	2	54	12	2
b. Stability	1	28	23	–
Other	99	71	934	10

B. Classification of the General Condition of Pupils Inspected During the Year in the Age Groups.

Age Groups	Number of pupils Inspected	A. (Good)		B. (Fair)		C. (Poor)	
		No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants	2,305	1,274	55.27	1,001	43.43	30	1.30
Second Age Group	1,486	655	44.08	795	53.50	36	2.42
Third Age Group	1,219	499	40.94	693	56.85	27	2.21
Other Periodic Inspections	3,031	1,144	37.74	1,820	60.05	67	2.21
Total	8,041	3,572	44.42	4,309	53.58	160	2.00

TABLE 3

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorized persons 107,675

(ii) Total number of individual pupils examined 16,963

(iii) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested 1,103

(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued 3

(v) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued 3

TABLE 4

TREATMENT TABLES

Group 1—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding Uncleanliness for which see Table 3).

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year by the Authority
Ringworm—	
(i) Scalp	1
(ii) Body	43
Scabies	52
Impetigo	50
Other skin diseases	368
Total	514

Group 2—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT

	No. of cases dealt with by the Authority
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	890
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint —	
Total	890
No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were (a) Prescribed	760
(b) Obtained	753

Group 3.—Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat

	Total No. treated other than by the Authority
Received operative treatment—	
(a) for diseases of the ear	6
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	461
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	2
Received other forms of treatment	8
	477

Group 4—Orthopædic and Postural Defects

(a) No. treated as in-patients in hospitals	49
(b) No. treated otherwise e.g. in clinics or out-patient departments other than by the Authority	688

Group 5—Child Guidance Treatment

No. of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics	nil

Group 6—Speech Therapy

Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists by the Authority	132

Group 7—Other Treatment Given

	Number of cases treated by the Authority
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments	5176
(b) other than (a)	
(i) Minor Eye Defects	166
(ii) Minor Ear Defects	191
(iii) Post-Tonsillectomy Breathing Excercises	769
Total	6,302

TABLE 5

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—		
(a) Periodic age groups	3,179	
(b) Specials	1,373	
(c) TOTAL (periodic and specials)	——	4,552
(2) Number found to require treatment	4,284	
(3) Number actually treated	3,805	
(4) Attendances made by pupils	4,386	
(5) Half-days devoted to:—		
Inspection	4	
Treatment	584	
TOTAL	— —	588
(6) Fillings:—		
Permanent Teeth	1,729	
Temporary Teeth	109	
TOTAL	— —	1,838
(7) No. of teeth filled:—		
Permanent Teeth	1,339	
Temporary Teeth	109	
TOTAL	— —	1,448
(8) Extractions:—		
Permanent Teeth	848	
Temporary Teeth	5,833	
TOTAL	— —	6,681
(9) Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction		2,270
(10) Other operations:—		
Permanent Teeth	}	234
Temporary Teeth	}	

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